

HEADLINES

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2011



DELIVER THE
ADVENTURE...

HERTFORDSHIRE ACTIVITY CENTRES

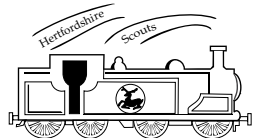
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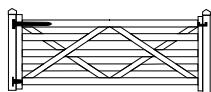
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HARMERGREEN
WOOD

Harmergreen Wood Warden
372 Ripon Rd
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Herts, SG1 4NH

Tel: 07521 384300

Email: harmergreen@hertfordshirescouts.org.uk



PHASELS WOOD

Phasels Wood Activity Centre
Rucklers Lane,
Kings Langley, WD4 9NA

Tel: 01442 252851

Email: info@phaselswood.org.uk

TOLMERS



SCOUT CAMP & ACTIVITY CENTRE

Tolmers Scout Activity Centre
Tolmers Road,
Cuffley, EN6 4JS

Tel: 01707 872900

Email: info@tolmers.org.uk



Well End Activity Centre,
Well End Road,
Borehamwood, WD6 5PR

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Email: warden@wellend.org.uk

HEADLINES

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Editors Note

Christmas is just around the corner, or have you not realised? Take a look on the back page where you can find out how to get great deals on your Christmas presents and help the Capital Appeal at the same time.

Once again Watford FC are running their popular Scout and Guide day in February, look to the centre pages for more information.

A taster of some of the activities on offer next year are in this edition, look out in Jan/Feb edition for even more.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all. Remember to be prepared for the snow.

Submission deadline for Jan/Feb edition is 8th January. Deadline for January Headlines Express is December 23rd.

Another bumper issue to read, enjoy!

The Headlines Editorial Team

headlines@hertfordshirescouts.org.uk

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Frontcover Photo: A team contemplating the ascent on day 1 of Peak Assault, Bleaklow Moor.
Photo by Liz Walker



HERTFORDSHIRE

HEADLINES—THE MAGAZINE FOR LEADERS & SUPPORTERS OF SCOUTING IN HERTFORDSHIRE

Published by Hertfordshire Scouts — County Office, Well End, Borehamwood, WD6 5PR.

Tel: 0845 053 0437 Email: headlines@hertfordshirescouts.org.uk

Hertfordshire County Scout Council is a registered charity in England & Wales (number 302606) & Scotland (number SC0039650)

Printed by HI Standard Studios, Luton

OUR ACTIVITY CENTRES HELP YOU DELIVER THE ADVENTURE.

RikkiLeaks!

Peak of Achievement

I've just had the best weekend since summer holidays! Peak Assault really is the business when it comes to showing off the skills that our scouts have acquired down the years. Far too much to write about in this column – I've asked for a separate page.

Talking of things active, I ordered a new pair of running shorts recently and was shocked to find that, according to New Balance, I'm XXL. My goodness, I thought, I'm looking more and more like a scouter! Nike said I was only XL, so I bought theirs. Mind you, I now have a self-imposed a ban on biscuits and sweets – but I couldn't resist Chris Searle's breakfasts at Peak Assault.

Those who took part in the Wyboston Regional Support Day for DCs and GSLs found it very worthwhile. I agree, even though Norfolk beat us to the prize for the best decorated registration desk. They did deserve it, though, as they titlled the visual, auditory, olfactory and gustatory senses. I'm still trying to wash out the smell of kippers. Such meetings always provide stimulation, inspiration and the opportunity to share problems and solutions. On 12th February, the DCs, County Support Team and County Exec will be getting together to discuss the Association's Vision 2018 and to align our development plans to it. The meeting will be called 'Q-tips' and will look at what leads to quality and quantity in Scouting, how the two are related and how they relate to the 2018 vision.

Welcome to Cesca Gullick, the new DC for Potters Bar, and many thanks to Charles Dace who did such great things in that role. Welcome also to Nigel Taylor, who is leading the County's adult recruitment drive and may well be in touch with you to collect and spread your success stories and the good ideas that go with them.

Remember from the last issue that I asked for quotes? I had a nice response from Claire Greener, ASL of the 8th Letchworth. The Group post theirs at <http://www.8thlethworthscoutgroup.org/campquotes.htm>. Well worth a look! Please send me any more crackers. I collected a beauty at Peak Assault, so here goes.

Quote of the issue. I was on the start grid giving out envelopes containing instructions. Amongst them was an instruction about keeping to the Country Code. The team leader asked whether the team know the Country Code, to which one Explorer instantly responded 'yes, it's zero zero four four'. That set me up nicely for the weekend!

Thanks for all you do. Have a great Christmas and New Year then, please, do it all again!



Rikki

cc@hertfordshirescouts.org.uk



County News for 2012

Membership Fee

As you are already aware there is an increase in the National Membership fee for 2012. It should be remembered that the County Executive, in 2010, decided that due to the economic climate not to increase either the 2011 membership fee or training fee but to warn districts that there would be an increase in 2012.

The various Hertfordshire Scout Budget Holders have undertaken a detailed review of their areas of responsibility in an effort to keep costs to a minimum even though there have been some significant cost increases. In some cases there has been a review of how events/projects have been undertaken resulting in radical changes in processes, (for example in training there has been a move from commercial based training to volunteer based training).

Following a long deliberation by the County Executive it was decided to increase the membership fee by £0.35. In addition to ensure that the training fee covers the expenditure on both leader training and safeguard training the County Executive have increased the training fee by £0.15.

Therefore the total combined County and National membership fee for 2012 will be £31.50.

Further details on the subscription fees for 2012 can be obtained from County Office.

County AGM 2012

The AGM 2012 will be on Monday 25th June at Rothamsted, Harpenden.

RikkiLeaks! - STOP PRESS

Scouting on the wing

'Rikki you have control' said Colin. Oh sugar, wish I'd been listening to what he'd been saying rather than admiring the view. 'You're drifting Rikki'. He took control back! I've just had my first flight in our powered glider. Wow!

I have also scratched the surface of meteorology and navigation for aviators, and have looked at the engine of a Queen Bee- especially fascinating to an entomologist. So have the lucky 30 Scouts who were first to get their applications in to Air Camp, an annual event organised by our Air Activities Team and a lot of amazing volunteers, some with Scouting connections, some just keen to see the next generation of pilots coming along. It is held at the Cambridge Gliding Club, with which Scouting clearly has an excellent symbiosis.

This was a facet of Herts Scouting I hadn't seen before and yet another example of a truly wonderful group of people dedicated to opening up opportunities for our Scouts. The Scouts themselves were most impressive – listening intently and correctly answering questions I silently got wrong. We really are a fortunate bunch.

Congratulations....

....to Peter (PJ) and Vicky Johnson who were married at Inverloch Castle in the Scottish Highlands on November 5th. PJ and Vicky are both keen members of the Tolmers Service Team, along with supporting the County Explorer events, and DofE in East Herts. Best wishes to you both on your future life together.



Sadly, this is my last contribution to Headlines as ACC (International). It is 17 years since I penned my first – in what was then colloquially called HSG. I note that it was submitted at 22:36 hours on Wednesday, 9th November 1994 to be precise. So no change in my being close to the wire even then! My piece included a plea for Japanese interpreters to come forward as we were soon to play hosts to a large group of Scouts from Japan on their way to the World Scout Jamboree at Dronten in the Netherlands. So here we are now starting to prepare for Hertfordshire to make a return visit to Japan in 2015 to attend the next World Scout Jamboree at Kirara-hama, Yamaguchi perhaps to open another chapter in the Hertfordshire – Japan unveiling story.

I have served four County Commissioners as their ACC(I) in that time and have supported Hertfordshire Units to 5 World Scout Jamborees (The Netherlands, Chile, Thailand, Essex and recently Sweden). Over the years we have had countless Unit, District and County expeditions overseas to such far-flung places as the Kingdom of Lesotho in 1997 pony trekking in the awe-inspiring highlands, Rodrigues Island to attend the first Indian Ocean Rover Moot in 2000, and driving through the jungle of the Jarawa tribal homelands in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands in 2006.

In one year alone (2005) Hertfordshire Scouts were to be found trekking through Namibia, Argentina, Ghana and Iceland – not the same ones of course.

In return, we have played host to Scouts of many nationalities including the Norwegians, Koreans, Russians, Americans, Catalans, Chileans, Japanese, Swazis, South Africans and the 35-strong 'Operation One World' Unit in 2007 with representatives of the poorest countries in sub-Saharan Africa including Burkina Faso, Mozambique, Kenya, Madagascar, Cameroon, Chad, Cape Verde, Niger, Gabon and Rwanda. It was a real privilege to offer them our Hertfordshire hospitality.

So over the years our Scouts have had many opportunities to savour the global dimension of our Movement and experience other cultures, faiths, languages and ways of playing the great game of Scouting worldwide. Long may the chances for young people to take part be offered. For some, it will be life-changing.

Scouting life is like a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving forward however slowly. I'm hoping not to lose my balance just yet!

It only remains for me to wish you all a Feliz Navidad, Meilleurs Voeux, Buon Natale, God Jul, Gelukkig Kerstfeest, Mele Kelikamaka and not forgetting our friends in Wales - Dolleg Llawn.

Mike Aston

Partnership Deal for Phasels and Tolmers

Watford Boys Grammar School (WBGs) has agreed a 3-year partnership deal for Hertfordshire Scouts to provide five day residentials and Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Award services at their major Activity Centres Phasels Wood (Kings Langley) and Tolmers (Cuffley).

The contract starts immediately with the provision of DofE overnight stays at Phasels Wood, with hikes and other activities taking place in the surrounding countryside.

The residentials will take place in early summer for the next 3 years using the range of on-site activities that are available at both Activity Centres, providing real challenge and fun for the Year 7 students.

Paul Shearring, Chair of Governors at WBGs said, "We were looking for a value for money provider who would offer the school all the services that we require for our students. Fully catered, tent accommodation included, challenging activities for the students to take part in, in safe, risk assessed surroundings. Hertfordshire Scouts are providing this, and within easy reach of the school premises. We are looking forward to working in partnership with the Scouts in the future."

Mike Shurety, County Chairman of Hertfordshire Scouts said, "These two Activity Centres are little known outside Scouting, but are available for schools, community organisations, and commercial concerns for activities, team building and training. We are delighted that Watford Grammar School for Boys have chosen us to provide these services and we too look forward to working in partnership with them and their young students in future."



Picture shows: L to R rear: Roger Sands; Paul Shearring, Chair of Governors, Watford Grammar School for Boys, Michael Shurety; with Year 7 Boys exploring one of the tents for the residentials.

Further information from:

Roger Sands, Hertfordshire Scouts,
07773 671035; 01923 681035 or e-mail roger.sands1@ntlworld.com

Congratulations.... even more Queen's Scouts

Since the last edition, congratulations go to:

David Armstrong – West Herts

Chris Povey – Hemel Hempsted

Bryony Powell – Rickmansworth and Chorleywood

Sam Shelley – Hemel Hempsted



Activities News

The Land Activities and Mountaineering teams have built a program for next year giving Explorers, Network and Leaders more opportunity to train for and gain adventurous activity permits in Walking and Climbing. The following dates should be noted in your diary, with further details on the County Website.

19th Feb	Artificial Wall Training & Assessments	Phasels Wood	over 16's
30th Mar - 7th Apr	Intermediate Mountaineering Course (week 1)	Lochearnhead	over 13's
6th - 14th Apr	Intermediate Mountaineering Course (week 2)	Lochearnhead	over 13's
(will be either 30 Mar - 7th Apr or 6th - 14th Apr)	ML Training Week	Lochearnhead	over 18's
5th-9th April	Summer Hillwalking Training Weekend	Snowdonia	over 18's
29th April	Artificial Wall Training & Assessments	Phasels Wood	over 16's
19th May	Summer Hillwalking Permit Assessment Day	Peak District	over 18's
20th May	Single pitch rock climbing (top rope) permit assessment day	Peak District	over 18's
8th - 10th June	Summer Hillwalking Permit Assessment Day	Snowdonia	over 18's
14th-16th Sep	County Climbing Weekend, all ability training & assesment opportunities	Peak District	over 16's
5th - 7th Oct	Hillwalking Permit Training and Assessment weekend	Snowdonia	over 18's
26th Dec - 3rd Jan	Advanced Mountaineering Course	Lochearnhead	over 16's

The team are also looking at building up our Mountain Biking and Snowsports activities and opportunities within Hertfordshire. More information on this early in 2012.

Amazing Adventures on the way to gaining the Explorer Belt



This year, three teams travelled through Swaziland and Lesotho attempting to gain the coveted Explorer Belt – Lubombo, Shaka's Zulus and Quthing. Local names for local people as each team included Swazi Scouts in their number and eventually when reaching Lesotho, Basotho Scouts as well. A truly international experience for our Scouts and even more so for the Scouts in the two small kingdoms.

Each team had a major task to accomplish which entailed Lubombo visiting fire stations, Quthing visiting rural and town

markets and Shaka's Zulus visiting schools. On top of this, each had 10 minor projects which included getting pictures of dinosaur footprints in Lesotho, searching for dung beetles, photographing wild warthogs, investigating the life cycle of sugar cane, milking cows, appearing on local T.V. and sleeping in a traditional rondavel. The Belt is only awarded when good attempts are made on all the projects and a presentation is made to a good size audience.



The following are now proud wearers of the Belt: From Swaziland – Lihle Nxumalo, Nikiwe Simelane, Sifiso Dlamini, Mxolisi Shabangu, Londiwe Dlamini, Busizwe 'Busy' Ngwenya, Mxolisi Mavuso and Bandla 'Banker' Gamedze (all presented by the President of the Lesotho Scout Association – the Hon Judge Alidah Hlajoane on the 30th August 2011 at the Anglican Training Centre, Maseru, Lesotho)



From U.K. – James Purton and Paul Scott (presented by our County Commissioner, Rikki Harrington on 19th September 2011 at Potters Bar & District AGM)

From Lesotho – participating in the Explorer Belt certificates were presented to Keletso Molekane, Tohlang Khajoane and Keketso Chefa on the 30th August 2011.

Quthing made their presentation at our Reunion in St Albans on Saturday 19th November 4at St Albans District HQ.

Shaka's Zulus presented in the evening at a District Ceilidh in Elgin, Morayshire on Saturday 26th November.

Mike Aston, Explorer Belt Co-ordinator, Ukubuyela Afrika Expedition



Hertfordshire Scouts in Denmark August 2011

At the beginning of August, 94 Scouts, Explorers, Network members and Leaders from all over Hertfordshire embarked on a 10 day trip to Denmark. Travel was by 2 coaches each with luggage trailers supported by a van and car, using the Harwich to Hook of Holland ferry and driving to Denmark through Holland and Germany.

Camping at Naesby Centret, a Danish Scout campsite on Zealand, participants were able to join with Danish Scouts in a wide variety of on-site activities including metal work at the smithy, large scale pioneering projects, canoeing, rafting and splitting real logs for the cooking fires! Some of the Scouts also hiked around the nearby lake and camped overnight.



'The people I met really surprised me as the whole site was multi lingual even the younger Danish children were learning English.' - *Chris Gray*

'I had a lovely time in Denmark. The hikes were fun. The scenery was beautiful. The camp atmosphere was very cheerful and there was lots to do.' - *Joe Dee Starr*

The site was run with a volunteer crew with a refreshing enthusiasm and energy – for example providing a barbeque for all 600 campers on site and the widgame for all older Scouts that started at midnight!

'The campsite was so well chosen we couldn't have found anywhere better. The staff were perfect and the people we met there we are still in touch with. From Denmark, America, Poland (on our last day) and of course some of our own from 'sunny' Hampshire'
- *Daniel Maynard*

Off-site activities included day visits to Copenhagen, visiting the Little Mermaid and the Tivoli Gardens and the Viking Museum at Roskilde where everyone had the opportunity of rowing and sailing a Viking longboat.

'My favourite part of the trip was the visit to Copenhagen. This had magnificent feats of architecture with shops you couldn't find in London.' - *Chris Gray*

'My favourite part was the trip in the Viking Long Boats.'
- *Finlay Lohar-Self*

A highlight of the trip was driving across the impressive Oresund Bridge to Sweden to visit to World Scout Jamboree. Participants were able to spend a full day sampling the Jamboree experience and meeting with some members of our Hertfordshire units.

'I especially liked the Jamboree because I got to meet lots of people and try new things.' - *Nic Watson*

'It was a memory that any would treasure for a lifetime. We could only imagine how awesome it must have been at the jamboree having only been there for a day.' - *Daniel Maynard*

For many this was a first taste of international Scouting and visiting a Jamboree. Hopefully the camp has inspired many to plan their own Troop, Group and Unit trips abroad in years to come!

Colin Rivett, Camp Chief



PEAK ASSAULT 2011

Location: Bleaklow Moor, Peak District

Summary Results

Explorer Scout (Training) Competition:

Position	Team	Team Name	Pts	Time
1	25	St. Albans D	86	11:00
2	1	Kinsbourne ESU A	68	10:35
3	11	Icknield ESU A	57	12:49

Senior Competition:

Position	Team	Team Name	Pts	Time	Trophy
1	54	Buntingford Senior	112	11:17	Alan Rees Trophy
2	56	Sandridge	97	11:10	
3	51	Team Tellytully	93	11:47	

Network Competition:

Position	Team	Team Name	Pts	Time	Trophy
1	60	Union Network	115	11:20	Lydia Jack Trophy
2	57	WAK NSU	96	10:24	
3	58	Hemel Hempstead SN A	61	11:42	

Explorer Scout Competition:

Position	Team	Team Name	Pts	Time	Trophy
1	15	Oddy ESU A	116	11:06	Alan Frater Trophy & Jane's Salver
2	5	Harpenden ESU A	104	11:37	Melville's Crook
3	6	Harpenden ESU B	84	11:33	Fellowship Trophy
4	36	Voyager ESU A	78	12:06	
5	23	St. Albans ESU B	74	12:11	
9	20	Leopard Explorers	71	11:54	Visitors Trophy

- Full results at www.hertfordshirescouts.org.uk/peakassault
- Date of next years competition: 19th - 21st October 2012

GREEN BERET CHALLENGE 2011

Tolmers Activity Centre

Summary Results

Position	Team	Team Name
1st	93	1st Kimpton (MSR)
2nd	40	1st Leverstock Green (A)
3rd	17	12th Harpenden (Blue)
4th	105	1st Tring (Fire)
5th	22	1st Gossoms End (B)



- Full results at www.hertfordshirescouts.org.uk/scouts
- Date of next years competition: 18th - 18th November, Lees Wood



OFFICIAL SCOUTS AND GUIDES DAY

11TH ANNIVERSARY

WATFORD v BARNESLEY

SATURDAY 4TH FEBRUARY 2012, 3PM
VICARAGE ROAD STADIUM



Watford Football Club would like to invite all of Hertfordshire's Scouts and Guides to join in the fun of a matchday at Vicarage Road Stadium when we entertain Barnsley in February 2012.

What does Scouts and Guides Day 11 involve?

Following the massive success of the previous official Scouts and Guides days, Watford Football Club are delighted to allocate our Championship home fixture with Barnsley to highlight the wonderful Scouts and Guides movements within Hertfordshire.

The Hornets are aiming to climb the table so the emphasis is firmly on obtaining three more vital points. So get down to Vicarage Road to support your local team.

Celebratory Sew on Badge:

To commemorate this special occasion, Watford Football Club will present each young person with a sew on badge to attach to their uniform.

Watch live football at an amazing price!

To encourage as many of you to join us as possible, we are offering the tickets to you with a massive reduction in price. You can purchase as many tickets as you want for just £15 for adults and £5 for under 16's, so make sure you bring all your family and friends!

We pay you for your support!

Most importantly, by showing your support to us, we will in return donate half of the cash spent on purchasing your tickets back to your group, once VAT and admin costs have been deducted.

So, not only will you benefit from a reduction on the ticket price, but we will return half of that money to you which you can put into your group to fund other activities!

What are you waiting for?

This offer is open to all Scouts and Guides and any extra friends or family you wish to invite. Contact your group leader and book up now for what promises to be a great day out and offers great value for money.

Don't miss out

Tickets are subject to availability and will be allocated on a first come first served basis so please don't delay in sending us your application.

See you there!

GROUP BOOKING FORM

Simply fill in this form to enjoy a great afternoon's football, and make money for your Group in the process!!

All you have to do is send in the form to the address below, by no later than **Friday 6th January 2012**, accompanied by payment of the full prices on the form. Cheques payable to Hertfordshire Scouts. After the match, Watford will refund the amounts above to Hertfordshire Scouts, who will then send your Group a cheque for the requisite amount. It's that easy!

To: Hertfordshire Scouts County Office, Well End Scout Centre, Well End Road, Borehamwood, Herts, WD6 5PR.

YES - we're coming to Watford on 4th February, and we require tickets as follows:

Adults

I would like to book number of tickets @ £15 per head

Cost

£

Young People

I would like to book number of tickets @ £5 per head

£

Please enclose a cheque with your booking form

FINAL TOTAL

£

NB: Please only send ONE cheque per Scout Group / Guide Unit

PLEASE WRITE CLEARLY AS YOUR GROUP WILL BE ACKNOWLEDGED ON THE DAY

SCOUT/GUIDE GROUP NAME (FULL NAME AND STYLE AS GROUP BANK ACCOUNT):

CONTACT NAME:

ADDRESS:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

DAYTIME TELEPHONE NUMBER:

IMPORTANT: YOU MUST SEND THE FULL TICKET PRICE FOR EACH PERSON ATTENDING. YOUR AMOUNT PER TICKET WILL BE REFUNDED THROUGH HERTFORDSHIRE SCOUTS AFTER THE DATE OF THE GAME. BOOKINGS WILL NOT BE MADE FOR THOSE WHO DO NOT FOLLOW THIS RULE.

PLEASE ONLY SEND ONE CHEQUE PER SCOUT GROUP / GUIDE UNIT

TEAM HORNETS SIGN UP TODAY!



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Minibuses and the use of by Hertfordshire Scouts



While compiling a list of Minibuses owned by groups in Hertfordshire, it was clear that there are some gaps in the knowledge surrounding the use of Minibuses on Scouting activities. Below are some clarification points.

Minibus Driver Permit:

All drivers of minibuses for ***Hertfordshire Scouts** MUST have passed the Hertfordshire County Council Minibus Driver Test, whether driving a minibus for young people, or adults. This test ensures the driver has the extra skills and knows the responsibilities required when driving a minibus rather than a car. This has been a policy of Hertfordshire for many years and must be adhered to. Groups who own their own Minibus must remind anyone who uses their bus of this requirement.

Hertfordshire Scouts has its own assessors. The test takes just under an hour. The permit is valid for 5 years. Full details on where and how to book a test can be obtained from County Office.

Some Minibus insurers (Unity included) recognise these local authority schemes and can reduce premiums if groups agree to only let drivers with a valid permit drive their bus.

Section 19 (Small Bus) Permits:

ALL Scout Groups, Districts or Activity Centres who operate a minibus (whether you own it or just hire it) need a Small Bus Permit. Small Bus permits are necessary so that voluntary groups like the Scouts can charge or accept any form of remuneration for providing transport for their own members, without having to comply with the full PSV operator licensing or PCV driver licensing requirements.

This means that if you hire or borrow a minibus even for one troop night, you still need to have a valid Small Bus Permit. It is therefore recommended that all Groups and Districts hold at least one at all times.

You can buy the Section 19 Minibus Permits from the Scout Information Centre on 0845 300 1818, at a cost of £5, or you can download the application form from the Member Resources section of scouts.org.uk (search for minibus).

Further information on any aspects of Scout Minibus use or ownership can be obtained from Dan Nathan, ACC Activities (acc.activities@hertfordshirescouts.org.uk) or County Office (admin@hertfordshirescouts.org.uk)

***Hertfordshire Scouts** means any activity or event organised by a Group or District from Hertfordshire, or by The County itself. This includes trips out of County such as to Lochearnhead, and also transport to and from events in other Counties/Countries.

ITTH – Introduction To The Hills 2012

*The ever popular ITTH is getting ready for you
Friday 4th – Monday 7th May 2012*

Hertfordshire Scouts and Guides aged between 10 and 14 are invited for an action packed weekend at Orchard Farm, our activity centre in the Staffordshire Peak District.

You will scale new heights whilst rock climbing, and abseil down again, you'll feel the speed and excitement of mountain biking, marvel at the beauty of the Peaks whilst you explore them and you can also develop the skills needed to take on the challenge of orienteering. The food is pretty amazing too!

Date: Friday 4th May – Monday 7th May 2012

Venue: Orchard Farm, Staffordshire

Cost: £105.00

Prior to the trip, we will hold a gathering for the Scouts and Guides together with parents/guardians to enable us to share our plans for the weekend and for you to raise any questions you may have. This has been provisionally booked for Sunday 4th March, at Templewood School in Welwyn Garden City.

If you are a Guide, Scout or Leader who is interested in joining this fun weekend and would like further information, please do not hesitate to contact me via the contact details below. To reserve your place, complete the application form available on the website at <http://www.hertfordshirescouts.org.uk/itth> and send it with a (non-returnable) deposit of £40 made payable to 'ITTH- Scouts & Guides' by Friday 3rd February 2012 to:

Steven (Barney) Barnard
4 Dolphin Yard, East Street, Ware, Herts. SG12 9HH
01920 461348 / 07917 577578
email: itthherts@gmail.com

We cannot accept forms which have not been signed by your Guide or Scout Leader



Spring Bank Holiday Sailing Week

2nd June – 9th June 2012 at East Mersea.

If you would like to take up Sailing or improve your Sailing skills then consider attending the Sailing Activity Week at East Mersea. We have a team of qualified instructors who will be able to help you. Please apply on the form to attend, preferably as groups, but individuals can be accommodated as well. The week will suit older Scouts, Guides, Explorer Scouts and Network Scouts. Scouts or Guides younger than 11 years of age will find the week taxing! The sailing activities during the week will be based on the Sailing syllabuses of the Royal Yachting Association (RYA). The appropriate RYA sailing qualification will be presented at the end of the week if the course requirements are completed successfully.

Further details can be found at www.hertfordshirescouts.org.uk/water



New for 2012 The Norfolk Lodge

Tolmers are pleased to announce that their new indoor accommodation building – The Norfolk Lodge – Will be opening early 2012 and we are taking bookings NOW!!!

The Norfolk Lodge will sleep 60 in 11 bedrooms. There is a fully equipped kitchen and integral toilets and showers.

The building will cost £265 per 24hrs for Scouts and Guides with a minimum 48hr hire. There has already been a lot of interest for 2012 and so please book fast to avoid missing out.



Intermediate Mountaineering Course (IMC) 2012

Explorer Units and Leaders, if you want to know more about the Easter County Mountaineering Course at Lochearnhead, if you want someone to visit your Unit - run a short DVD about the Course - answer any questions.....

Contact Geoff Smith, carfax.t21@btinternet.com 01462 731935

Courses are for one week, leaving 30th March and 6th April. Cost - only £200 inc travel

Go to www.hertfordshirescouts.org.uk/mountaineering to view leaflet with dates, booking details and application forms. For hard copies of this leaflet please ask Geoff Smith.

Adult Support Team

Supporting Adult Training, Active Support and Special Needs

Firstly a HUGE “thank you” to everyone who has volunteered as First Response trainer since the articles in the last edition. Your time and skills are greatly appreciated both by the training team, but more importantly by all the leaders which you will help to support.

There are still plenty of opportunities to join the adult support team however, see below

Volunteer Opportunities

Safeguarding Presenters:

Do you have an interest in Safeguarding matters, perhaps as part of your employment? Would you like to join our growing team of presenters?

**SAFEGUARDING
IN SCOUTING.**

Now that Safeguarding courses are becoming a regular fixture around the County we are seeking to grow this important team. Ideally we need two team members for each of the 20 courses we run per year. With a big enough team this should not be too onerous, as each course only lasts 2-3 hours. Ideally you would work in your District and its neighbours and present 3 or 4 courses per year. Full training is provided on an all expenses paid weekend residential course run by Headquarters.

If you are interested, please do contact Dave Pullen, County Safeguarding Awareness Co-ordinator (safeguarding@hertfordshirescouts.org.uk)

Deputy County Training Manager – Core Skills:

We are seeking someone to work with the County Training Manager, Ben Balaam to develop, manage and support our provision of ‘Section Leader Training’ [purple modules 11 to 19]. If interested, please do not hesitate to call Ben (01279 653385) or email training.manager@hertfordshirescouts.org.uk; it would be great to hear from you.

Special Needs Cluster Co-ordinators:

We would like to continue to build the special needs adviser team, an area you have told us you would like more support in. Working with our ACC, Anita Claydon, you will help support access to Scouting for young people and adults with special needs in a cluster of three of four Districts local to you. You will probably have a background in education or a related field and have some professional training in this area. We hope that by appointing a team of advisers that this would not be too onerous a role, one which could easily be combined with another role in Scouting.

If you are interested in this role and want a chat about what is involved please contact Anita Claydon on acc.specialneeds@hertfordshirescouts.org.uk or telephone 01992 634136.

In addition we are always looking to recruit more first aid trainers, particularly if your District currently has no provision, and adult training module presenters.

Safeguarding:

The programme of training courses for leaders coming up to review is now well underway. Since places are limited and priority must go to those who have an appointment review in the next 12 months at most please discuss this with your Local Training Manager or DC before booking to find out if you need to do the course this year. Bookings can be made here:

<http://www.hertfordshirescouts.org.uk/index.php/adult-support/training-courses>

These courses are in demand and we would be very grateful if you do book and find you cannot make it if you could you cancel by contacting County Office so the place can be made available to another participant.

Our County Safeguarding Co-ordinator is Dave Pullen:

safeguarding@hertfordshirescouts.org.uk

Any queries about safeguarding training or best practise should be directed to him. **If you have any concerns about a child’s welfare you must report it to your District Commissioner, following the procedure laid out on your yellow card.**

Dave is also willing to help Groups with any Health & Safety issues regarding their premises, including helping with Health and Safety audits. Please do drop Dave a line if you need any help in this area.

County Adult Support Survey:



Thank you to everyone who has contributed over the last few months – your input has been much appreciated. The Adult Support team has met to discuss the initial responses and are considering how our provision can be enhanced to meet your needs.

However, most responses so far have been from **managers, not from section leaders. We are particularly keen to get more responses from leaders under 25 and section and assistant section leaders to ensure the feedback is representative.**

We will keep the survey open, if you have not yet contributed please do so using the following link www.hertfordshirescouts.org.uk/adultsupportsurvey

When we have a more representative sample I hope to be able to write here about the developments that will follow.

Scout Active Support:

Hertfordshire has some wonderful Active Support Units, both District based and working as Service Crews at the Activity Centres, which are providing a very valuable service to frontline Scouting in their locality. We recognise that these have evolved out of strong Scout Fellowships which often include a dynamic social side and there is no intention whatsoever to change this. Unfortunately not all areas in the County have access to an ASU. The Adult Support Team wishes to grow, develop and diversify the Active Support provision within Hertfordshire to ensure all Sections, Groups and Districts have access to, and support from, Active Support units as required. This will maintain and build on the skills, commitment and service of the existing ASUs, whilst seeking to extend, and where necessary update our provision.



Recently I have been discussing the evolution of Active Support with a number of interested parties to determine:

- What is the best structure for the ASU provision in Hertfordshire and how can it best support Groups, Districts and the County
- Should we promote the ASU to those leaving Network as an alternative to full Leadership and if so in what format?
- How should we seek to recruit new members to ASUs?
- What is the current age profile of the ASUs; are we happy with it?
- What are the practical difficulties in:
 - Setting up a new ASU
 - Day to day running of the ASU
 - How can these be overcome?

If anyone has particular views on any of the above points, I would be delighted to hear them.

A number of points are becoming clear:

- **A centrally managed ASU is not the correct module for Hertfordshire;** this would be too inflexible and unwieldy. Each local ASU, and any created to fulfil a certain remit, need to appoint their own manager. However there is a need for a **central co-ordinator**, to act as a central point of contact and to assist in supporting the individual ASUs.
- In particular a key role of a co-ordinator would be to support and promote the **development of new ASUs**. Are YOU the person for this role? Do you enjoy project work, but don't have time for a regular commitment to Scouting? Can you think creatively and inspire others? If you think you could help lead the on-going development of Active Support in Herts I would love to hear from you!
- ASUs can be created to support specific time limited or on-going **projects**. These would be defined through **service agreements** The County Team is already beginning to identify certain projects/jobs which could easily be delivered through a dedicated ASU.

Having spoken to colleagues in other Counties it is clear that the key to building a new ASU is to identify a list of jobs, from the small to the large, that you need doing in your District or County which an ASU can then deliver. This immediately generates a service agreement and it is far easier to recruit volunteers to an organisation with a clear aim than one with some poorly defined, nebulous mission.

Watch this space.... (and check out the role descriptor for ASU co-ordinator
<http://www.hertfordshirescouts.org.uk/index.php/news/vacancies>)

Welcome to our new County Inclusion Advisor

I am delighted to announce that Alex Tomkins has been appointed as our County Inclusion Adviser.

Many of you will know Alex from his contributions to Scouting in Ware District, which he will continue, and as an Assistant Unit Leader to the last World Scout Jamboree in Sweden.

Alex is highly qualified for this role, both in Scouting and in his professional life. He has been a Diversity Ambassador for the Scout Association since 2009, travelling the Country supporting county events, training leaders and promoting Scouting in different communities. He currently works at St Elizabeth's School, a special school supporting children with complex needs including epilepsy and autism. After a few years in varying care roles he trained as a teacher.



His role in the County will include:

- Helping Groups and Districts build inclusion issues into their development plans.
- Visiting Groups and Districts around the County to provide tailored advice, particularly supporting any Development Days run in Districts.
- Contributing to our adult training, including developing module 7: Diversity and providing Inclusion Action Planning workshops as required.
- Auditing and providing targeted support in ensuring that the Scout census represents the wider make up of Hertfordshire's community as closely as possible.
- Supporting the County's adult recruitment and retention strategy, with a particular emphasis on recruiting from under-represented groups.

Please do contact Alex with any issues relating to this important area. He is keen to meet as many of you as possible. He can be contacted at inclusion@hertfordshirescouts.org.uk

Tim Mills, Deputy County Commissioner (Adult Support)
dcc.adultsupport@hertfordshirescouts.org.uk

The census approacheth...

Last year the diversity questions in our census were slightly different and many people had concerns to why Headquarters was asking for fuller information than in previous years. Alex Tomkins, UK Diversity Ambassador, explains why the additional information is so valuable.

A New Year approaches: the Olympics, Queen's Jubilee celebrations and the decision of when to stick summer camp around all this? What do we want from Scouting in the next year? Some may say better resources, maybe more adults in the movement or just a new mess tent! All of these things depend on how many members we have.

Once a year the Scout Association asks for two things: money and information. This understandable, it helps to plan for and provide such things as insurance, leader training, Scouting magazine etc. But why the deep, some may say intrusive questions?

Two of Scouting's objectives are to reflect the communities that we serve, and to make Scouting available to as many young people as want to join. Some may say, we do this well already and we don't need questions to make it better.

The questions are to see whether we are being inclusive to everyone and also for the Scout Association to know what support Groups and leaders might need. If it were found that many Groups have a number of scouts with a specific disability, advice and resources could be offered to help the leaders of these young people. Or if there is a marked increase in members from a specific faith communities; efforts can be focussed on ensuring a good understanding of that faith.

Equally where the demographic of the Scout Group does not match the surrounding areas it allows everyone to ask the more challenging questions as to why. There may be good reasons, or it may provide a stimulus to help grow Scouting locally.

One particular issue that some Group Scout Leaders reported was the discomfort about asking parents more questions. The questions are not unusual, these sorts of questions are standard practise at most schools and companies and therefore the Scout Association is merely reflecting society in 2012.

One Group Scout Leader who shared her positive experiences with Scouting Magazine commented:

'To obtain the information for the census this year, I emailed all the parents in my Group asking them for the information. I explained why it was needed, and gave them a copy of the explanatory notes. Everyone seemed happy to respond.'

'The information regarding disabilities was useful to us, as parents do not always realise that it helps us as leaders to support their children. If we better understand the potential challenges, we will be better equipped to deal with them.'

This year's census will be asking the same questions with respect to inclusion, if you have any concerns about the questions or responses from parents and leaders alike, feel free to drop me an email.

Alex Tomkins, County Inclusion Advisor
inclusion@hertfordshirescouts.org.uk

PEAK ASSAULT

Views of a First Timer.....

....no, not a 14 year old Explorer but a fifty something County Commissioner. I've often waved goodbye to the coaches but, until this year, have never seen what happens when their contents spill out at the other end. Now I know why the event is a legend.

I'd better come clean and confess that I stayed at a B&B rather than at the camp site, which made the 06.00 start somewhat more possible. The stamina of the competitors, who arrived late at the Bleaklow base-camp (off Snake Pass) after delays on the M1, erected their tents, got a brief night's sleep, were ready for kit check by 7am and then set off on the gruelling 8 hour first day course was, frankly, astonishing. Mind you, the site was neither bleak nor low and, with such magnificent weather and views, every minute after daybreak spent indoors or in tents would have been verging on criminal. Sunday was less magnificent at first.

Not only is the event physically demanding, but mentally too. I went for a gentle stroll with messrs Shurety and Sands, starting at base-camp, visiting a few controls and ending up at the overnight camp via a much more direct route than that of the competitors. I took part in a few mountain marathons in my youth and I can tell you that the standard of Peak Assault is right up there. The look of achievement on the team members' faces as they arrived at the finish on day 2 was very much justified.

The stamina, skill, dedication and enthusiasm of the mass of helpers were equally impressive. Safety was to the fore and the marshalls and medics immensely experienced. Catering, logistics, overnight camp, public address, results, toilets and transport teams all had it to a tee, many of them coming year after year and many giving up several days to help set up. There was even an excursion for accompanying leaders. Tying it all together, as ever, was Gyles Wren to whom I had the great privilege of presenting a richly deserved Award for Merit. Planning begins immediately after the previous event and, having to change the top secret location with only a few weeks to go, was just one of the challenges Gyles and his teams had to cope with.

This event is living proof that outdoor skills are alive and well in Hertfordshire and in all participating Districts and Units. It is testament not only to the competitors and the helpers mentioned above but to all our leaders from Beavers up, who bring our scouts to this pinnacle of achievement.

Rikki



PEAK ASSAULT - FACTFILE

- Competitors do not know where the event will be held until arrival. Even the coach drivers do not know until they leave the depot. This year the organisers didn't even have a confirmed venue until four weeks beforehand!!
- There are four competitions: the main Explorers' competition, an 'Explorer training competition' in which an adult is allowed to accompany Explorers, a 'Network' competition and a 'seniors' competition for those with team members over 25. The Network and seniors set off on both days from base-camp. The Explorers stay overnight at a different location.
- Over 45 marshalls and field response team are out on the course throughout keeping tabs on all the teams and keeping in radio contact with each other and the controllers at the camp sites.
- 50 teams, comprising around 250 competitors took part. Around 50 team supporters, backed up the teams cooking breakfast, organising kit and ensuring they had hot food on Sunday when they came off the hill.
- This year's event was on National Trust land and NT is very supportive, even providing prizes for members of the top 10 teams. It turned out that their official (name?) was an ex member of the 10th Harpenden. The tenant farmer, Peter Atkin, was also truly brilliant.
- Peak Assault 2011 was the 44th year of the competition. The first year (1968) was held in Edale, Derbyshire. It has only been cancelled twice; 1995 due to heavy snow and 2001 due to the Foot and Mouth outbreak.
- The location for next year's competition is.....

News From The Groups

3rd Ware - Going Strong

2nd Scout Troop

A centenary after their formation 3rd Ware are still going strong; They are proud that the Group has always been popular and so full enough to provide 100 years of continuous Scouting in Ware.

In 2007 as part of their celebrations, for the centenary of Scouting, they opened a second Beaver colony. River Ash joined River Lea and both colonies are now always full. They feed into the two Cub packs. This year to celebrate 100 years of 3rd Ware they opened a second Scout Troop.

The new 3rd Ware Lynx Scout Troop spent their first evening spent getting to know each other and finding out how to use the many different types of stoves that one comes across at Scout camp. The GSL and Gus, the Group mascot, went to visit them and see how they were getting on. Gavin Matthews, the Group Scout Leader said that he was delighted to see the start of this much needed second Troop, who all seemed happy to be there and were working well together. He looks forward to them going from strength to strength and becoming an established and important part of 3rd Ware.

This second Troop has been made possible thanks to already established Leaders and Scouts (and their families) that were prepared to be flexible and swap nights, as well as new recruits. Some of the Leaders have moved from our Friday Troop bringing with them years of experience, but we also have several brand new and enthusiastic Leaders who jumped at the chance to share this adventure we call Scouting.



The two troops will run their own programmes but will take part in some joint events and plan nights away together.

Taking to the Water

Past and present members of 3rd Ware Scout group took to the water recently when they went white water rafting on the Lee valley Olympic course.

As one of the centenary events this year, the group decided to give the older members of the group, ie leaders, young leader, older scouts and past members of the group a chance to have their own adventure for once and give them a taste of the enjoyment that they usually provide for the 130+ young people in the group.

On the night two rafts were filled by 3rd Ware and they thoroughly enjoyed the exhilarating



activity. It is great to have an Olympic site on our doorstep and even better to be able to make use of it before the games begin.

Several of the newly recruited Scout leaders, who only joined the Group this term due to a new troop opening, took part in the event and thought it was a fantastic way to get to know their fellow Scout leaders.

Gavin Matthews, the Group Scout leader said that general opinion was that this was one of the best events held so far this year and the word he heard the most through out the evening and the following week was "Brilliant".

More photos and a video can be seen on <http://gus-augustusclibbon.blogspot.com> the Groups blog.

Jaqueline Matthews, 3rd Ware

Apsley Sails to Paradise and Gets a Fright!

Sailing Win for George

The Hertfordshire Scouts annual sailing regatta took place on 18th September at Bury Lake Young Mariners Base, in the aquadrome at Rickmansworth. George Davy a young leader at 1st Apsley took part and won the Explorer Scout class. In the morning race he managed to get around the course 6 times in 45 minutes, with not much wind!



George who was a Cub and Scout before becoming an Explorer Scout started his sailing as part of the scout adventure within the progressive award scheme.

Paradise Wildlife Park

1st Apsley joined in the County Beaver Family Fun Day at Paradise Wildlife Park. As well as visiting all the park's animals, the Beavers also gained some challenge badges by finding out about the animals, their habitats and conservation. There were many talks and animal displays throughout the day.

Adam a 6yr old Beaver said "I liked the Lions, and the Parrots were very funny in the show." Having never been before we were very impressed with the park. A big thank you to the County Team who organised the day, our Beavers went home having enjoyed the day and learning a lot.

Tell us what your Colony, Pack, Troop, Unit or District has been up to!

Email a write-up and good quality photo's of people taking part (try to avoid the traditional group line up shot) to headlines@hertfordshirescouts.org.uk

Fright Night

Apsley Beavers and Cubs celebrated Halloween with a spooky party at the Group HQ. Beavers and Cubs were in costume for the event and so were all the leaders who greeted them on arrival. The young people collected their activity passports and started on the challenge bases, these included traditional bases like apple bobbing and hanging doughnuts, we also had food bases like finding worms in jelly, decorating cakes and biscuits. There were game bases as well like spooky skittles and feed the witch. As part of the evening we also had our own spooky maze and a scary outdoor walk.



Simon Fancourt, Group Scout Leader
1st Apsley Scout Group

1st Stanstead Abbotts Scouts win Heavyweight Camping Competition after 71 years of trying!

A patrol of Scouts from the 1st Stanstead Abbotts & St Margaret's Scout Group won first place in Ware & District's Scout Heavyweight Camping competition last weekend. This is the first time that Scouts from the 1st Stanstead Abbotts & St. Margaret's Group have ever won this event in its 71 year history!



Our winning patrol of four Scouts, Henry, Grace, Jenny and Charlie won the Royal British Legion Shield for the Scout event, while our second patrol of Leigh, Curtis, Hannah, Oliver and Rosie took a very commendable third place. Special mention should go to Clare McKenzie Smith, who was too ill to compete but sorted out the menu selection and wrote out recipes from her sick bed to ensure the winning team knew what they were doing.

The event, that started in 1940 and has never missed a year since, is the best test of a Scout patrol's camping and team working skills and so is the premier event of the District's annual calendar to win. It is also shared with the District Guides and the Explorer Scouts. The winning Explorer Scout team was led by Bethan Howe, an ex-Stanstead Abbotts Scout too!

This is a fantastic result from our Scouts and a great reflection on the quality of our Troop leaders. Well done to all concerned

Paul Stretch, Group Scout Leader
1st Stanstead Abbotts & St. Margaret's Scout Group

History and Heritage Support Team

In November 1911, **Varley Everett**, (12) started a Scout patrol at his school, Sandroyd in Wiltshire. This was an initiative that was soon to promote the formation of School Troops all over the UK. **Varley** and his sister **Winn**, were both members



of the **First Elstree Troop** that was started by their father **Percy Everett** (1870 – 1952).. He was the first and longest serving County Commissioner of Hertfordshire. **Winn Everett** was the first “Girl Scout” to take the Scout Promise in 1908 (it was then known as The Scout Oath). **Varley** was also frequently used as a model for Scout portraits by famous painters such as **Hilliard Swinstead** and **Ernest Stafford Carlos**.

Over the weekend of 24 – 26 February 2012, to mark the sixtieth anniversary of the death of **Sir Percy Everett**, County Commissioner 1908 – 1944, I will be holding an exhibition showing all aspects of his life. This will be an ideal opportunity for Cub Scouts, Scouts and Explorer Scouts to achieve parts of their progressive award training. See www.hertfordshirescouts.org.uk, click on **Heritage & History** then **Activity Badges**).

Those you who like me had the privilege of working closely with **Melville Balsillie** (1905-1973) or have won Melville’s Crook in *Peak Assault*, may be interested to learn that my team has recently carried out restoration work to the tablet that marks the place where the ashes of he and his wife Bess are interned at Thundridge Churchyard

This is in preparation for the 50 years of Lochearnhead Exhibition to be held in the County Scout Museum in August 2012 and in support of the Activity fortnight being held at The Station.



The unique collection of Chief Scout portraits in the Graham Wallis HQ at Well End Activity Centre has been restored and the pictures are to be re-hung in a more suitable position. The captions, history and provenance of the portraits and artefacts have also been updated to help scouts fully understand their significance.



I have attended the rededication of a number of Scout HQs. St Albans District HQ has had an extensive facelift, also the Durban Road, Watford base of the first Scout Group in the County known as the First Watford South (Countess of Clarendon’s Own) Scout Group.

Lady Clarendon unveiled the plaque in the entrance lobby and received a bouquet from Beaver Scout Christopher. The Group also holds the record of being in the same HQ for 80 years on 14 November. A former church, the building has been upgraded internally to a very high standard. Exterior renovations are to follow.

On the occasion of the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee in June 2012 there will be a chain of beacons lit throughout the UK. The last event of this kind was in 1993 to mark the launch of the Single European Market and a number of Districts participated. In addition, Venture Scouts from Welwyn and Elstree Districts achieved notability by simultaneously raising the European flag on the 3 highest peaks in England, Scotland and Wales.

This attracted national publicity from the Press and TV, qualifying for an entry in a full colour souvenir book that was distributed throughout the EU. The activities of our County in Beacon Europe won second prize in a Media competition.

Question: “Could our current Scouts, Explorers and Network achieve something notable to mark this anniversary of Her Majesty’s reign?”

Frank Brittain, County Archivist

Tel. 01727 860086 / 07850 818600 email. archivist@hertfordshirescouts.org.uk



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