



South West Notts District Explorer Scouts Annual Report 2005/06

Our third year of Explorer Scouting in the District, like the first two, has been very successful.

District Activities

The Explorers ran the 9th Annual District Plant Sale at 6th Beeston's HQ in May, raising £1340. Additionally, the bar at the District Fireworks Display made £512 profit for Explorer Scouts. All this money was split between units according to the effort that their members put in to each event.

In January, we were very pleased to find that our District Census returns showed an increase in membership of a FANTASTIC 25% on last year, bringing the total District Explorer Scout membership to 60.

As the year ends, we are enjoying a District water weekend at Trent Lock Activity centre. So far, only one Leader and one Explorer have fallen in, but the DESC did somehow contrive to park a boat in the trees!

Several Young Leader Training sessions have been held to train the 23 Explorer Scouts who support Beavers Cubs and Scouts all over the District by acting as Young Leaders.

All our Units have had a full Scouting year, but two in particular wanted to record their experiences:

Magellan Explorer Scout Unit has seen a number of members leave this year due to exam work pressure but we've also had a number of enthusiastic new members from several troops in the district. The new explorers are working towards their Duke of Edinburgh bronze award and should hopefully complete their expedition section next year.

By popular demand Magellan had a small and relaxed summer camp at John's Lee Wood campsite. This was over a weekend. We also managed to arrange and actually attend a camping barn weekend in Derbyshire, which was very enjoyable even if it was a little cold. We hope to arrange more camping barn and youth hostel weekend next year. Next year we also hope to visit Kandersteg International Scout Camp in Switzerland and fund raising is currently going on to support this.

Discovery Water Activities Explorer Scout Unit have had an interesting and rewarding year:

- The Unit successfully completed a 3-day Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Expedition using "Conway" under oars and camping on the boat. They travelled on rivers and canals to the outskirts of Loughborough.
- Puggy and James attended Peak 2005 international camp as part of the Water Activities Team.
- The Explorers have enjoyed the weekends spent at Trent Lock which have added to their expertise in Canoeing, Sailing & Power Boating. They have been valued members of the Service Team.
- The Unit has acquired from Trent Lock a GP14 sailing dinghy, which required substantial refurbishment. This has been a major focus for the Explorers and expected use of the boat has been highly motivating. The boat has been renamed "Idunno" - the answer to the question "what shall we call the boat?"
- In October 2 District Explorers gained the Level 2 Power Boat Certificate from the RYA, at Trent Lock.
- Activities at Barton Island have again been a feature of Discovery's Programme, including participating in 2nd Beeston Sea Scouts Open Day in July.
- Winning the senior section of the Country MAD competition topped off the year. Good planning, smart turnout and training contributed to a brilliant day – they even camped at Walesby the previous night in the usual snow!!
- Numbers have remained steady at 3 /4 during the Year; 2 Young Leaders have taken up Leader Warrants. In the coming year it is expected that the Unit will grow to about 8 as more Scouts join from 2nd Beeston.

And Finally....

I would like to end by expressing my sincere thanks to everyone who has supported Explorer Scouting in South West Notts during 2005/06 – especially to all the leaders and helpers who put on such a great programme of activities for our young members and to parents and friends who support them. Special thanks go to my wife, Carmel - her support and encouragement is always appreciated.