



South West Notts District Explorer Scouts Annual Report 2006/07

Another year of successful Explorer Scouting!

Some doors open, while other close...

Sadly, we had to close Trojan ESU in the autumn after numbers had dwindled to just a few 15-16 year-olds. This is an example of how – as a district - we have all failed to provide sufficient support for Scouts leaving troops to link to Explorers. Hopefully the coming year will see stronger relationships being built between Scout troops and Explorer Scout units, and more focus on all leaders helping our young people to get the most out of scouting for themselves.

On a brighter note, we opened a new Explorer Scout Unit in January with 10 young founder members. Armstrong ESU meets at St Helen's church hall in Trowell on Friday evenings. Led by a young and enthusiastic leader, the unit is constantly demonstrating its commitment to spending as much time as possible out and about. Armstrong ESU has already attracted one new member who has not previously been involved in scouting.

Young Leaders

Due to a succession of unforeseen events, there were no Young Leader training sessions held during 06/07. Despite this, the January census figures showed that at least 22 Explorer Scouts continue to support Beaver, Cub, and Scout sections all over the District by acting as Young Leaders.

More than one section leader has said that their young leaders are worth their weight in gold, and there is at least one section in the district that would have closed had it not been for the continuity of support from dedicated Explorer Scouts.

Discovery Water Activities ESU

During this year Discovery ESU have forged closer links with 2nd Beeston Sea Scouts, by helping at section meetings as required, supporting water activities and helping with boat maintenance. They also contributed to the Royal Naval Inspection in July which led to the group proudly retained their RN recognition.

Service crew support has continued at Trent Lock Scout Activity Centre in Long Eaton and several Explorers have gained qualifications as a result.

One member has joined the Royal Artillery, putting his scout experience to good use blowing things up!

The unit was unable to retain the County MAD trophy this year but did come third, narrowly beating Magellan into fourth place. Considering that half the team were new to Explorers it seemed a good performance.

A sponsored row took place with 2nd Beeston Sea Scout Group, including some ex-members and the Unit assisted with this. The unit was also able to help the group with an unusual request from a founder member of the group to have a memorial service on Barton Island.

Numbers have increased over the year and the unit continues to train for the Duke of Edinburgh scheme. A bronze expedition is being planned to run during 07/08.

County Flag Competition – April 2006

Trojan ESU was the only Explorer Unit to enter a team to from South West Notts. Despite getting so little sleep that they had no energy to complete the cooking competition, they seemed to enjoy it!

Magellan ESU in Kandersteg – August 2006

A small group of Explorers and leaders travelled to Switzerland to stay at the International Scout Centre. Despite a Spanish coach colliding with their hire car in the car park (no-one was hurt), and the extremely wet weather, a great time was had by all.

District Firework Display – November 2006

Once again, the Explorer Scouts were instrumental in helping to set up and run the District firework display and bonfire – an event that raised significant funds for the District.

Camping Barn – November 2006

Magellan once again elected to drag the DESC out to deepest Derbyshire to invest some of their new members in a camping barn, where they were staying during an expedition training weekend.

Inger Trophy – March 2007

The end of the year saw a good turn out at Drum Hill campsite for the first Inger Trophy competition to be held for more than 10 years. The event and was designed to test night-time navigation skills, cooking skills and above all, teamwork. A team from Magellan ESU emerged victorious.

And Finally....

I would like to end by expressing my sincere thanks to everyone who has supported Explorer Scouting in South West Notts during 2006/07 – 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. As always, special thanks go to my wife, Carmel - her support and encouragement is always appreciated.

Colyn Kemp
District Explorer Scout Commissioner