



## South West Notts District Explorer Scouts Annual Report 2007/08

Yet another year of successful Explorer Scouting - and it came as no surprise to any of us that the year was dominated by events arranged to celebrate the Centenary of Scouting.

### **Nottinghamshire Gang Show – March 2007**

As the last chorus of *Crest of a Wave* died away at the end of March 2007, the cast of hundreds who trod the boards at Nottingham's historic Theatre Royal – including at least one Explorer Scout from South West Notts – returned to continue the Centenary celebrations with yet more Scouting activities.

### **County Centenary Camp – May 2007**

One of the first events on the agenda was a huge camp at Walesby - a bit damp, wasn't it?? The late May Bank Holiday weekend saw 21 Explorer Scouts and four Explorer Scout Leaders camping with 2<sup>nd</sup> Beeston Sea Scout Group. Most of those Explorer Scouts and Leaders spent the weekend helping to run a variety of activities for the younger members as they dripped their way around the site. For instance, Discovery ESU set up and ran the "Field Gun Run". Many more Explorer Scouts camped with Groups in order to provide much needed support to Leaders across the District.

### **World Jamboree – August 2007**

South West Notts Explorer Scouts played a huge part in the 21<sup>st</sup> World Scout Jamboree at Hylands Park in Essex. Five of the 36 Explorer Scouts gathered from across the County to make up the County Contingent came from our District, as well as two of the Leaders, including the Contingent Leader - Kirsten Rawson. South West Notts were also represented in the "Notts Extras" who travelled to Essex to take part in the Opening Ceremony of the Jamboree, carrying the flags of the world onto the stage in front of 40,000 Explorer Scouts from all over the globe. Discovery ESU visited the Jamboree from Tawd Vale, Ormskirk of all places in a marathon 21 hour minibus expedition.

### **District Sunrise Promise – August 2007**

Twelve Explorer Scouts were among the first people to arrive at 6am to help set up Dovecote Lane Park in preparation for a fabulous Renewal of Promises. Meanwhile, Discovery ESU made their promise in Southport on the Pier and appeared in local press.

### **Jamboree on the Air – October 2007**

One of our Explorers organised a *Jamboree on the Air* event in October, with the call sign GB50 SWN. This enabled a number of Scouts to achieve their Radio Communication badge.

### **District Firework Display – November 2007**

The Explorer Scouts organised and ran the District Firework Display and Bonfire, this time using a professional company to set off the fireworks. The proceeds from the gate money for the event raised nearly £2000 to help support Explorer Scouting across the District. The event also provided a great opportunity for Scout Groups to raise money: most of those who were there sold out by the end of the evening, despite that fact that the bar was only able to serve non-alcoholic drinks!

### **Live 07 – November 2007**

South West Notts Explorers were part of a nationwide cast of 3000 celebrating the end of the Centenary year at The O<sub>2</sub> arena in London in front of an audience of 20,000.

### **District Celebration – December 2007**

The "Excellent Explorer Entourage" formed the "high-vis" part of the team who organised and delivered the amazing District Celebration to end the Centenary year. They acted as front-of-house ushers, behind-the-scenes technicians and even co-compered the event itself!

### **International Peace Light – December 2007**

Once again, Magellan ESU went to Leicester Railway Station to collect the International Peace Light - a flame that had been carried by Scouts and Guides all the way from Bethlehem, where it had been lit from the Eternal Flame kept burning in Church of the Nativity. The light was subsequently presented at services in Beeston, Sawley and Mansfield and probably several other places around the County.

### **Young Leaders**

Only a few Young Leader training sessions took place during 07/08. 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.

### **And Finally....**

I would like to express my sincere thanks to everyone who has supported Explorer Scouting in South West Notts during 2007/08 – 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