



South West Nottinghamshire District Explorers

Annual Report 2012

In 2012 the Explorers are including an International flavour in their Annual Camp Programmes.

Portugal

Last year we reported on how the Pioneiros from Portugal had spent time in the District. This year the Leaders agreed to offer a return trip to Portugal to meet up with Luis, and his Pioneiros to the Explorers.

The outcome is that 11 Explorers and 2 Networkers are being taken by 6 Leaders to a massive Camp in Portugal.

The trip includes a week at the 22nd ACANAC at the Portuguese National Camp Site in Idanha-a-Nova. This is near the Spanish border about half way up. There will be about 10,000 Cubs, Scouts, Explorers and Leaders there so it should be a great experience. This will be followed by some local hosting around Lisbon. The Explorers and Leaders and sometimes the DC have been raising money in a variety of ways to help fund the Expedition. We are very grateful to local businesses, the Onion Club and Councillors among others for supporting us.

Essex 2012

Tornado Explorers had already decided that they would like to be a part of an international camp in the UK, and will be attending the Essex Jamboree in August. They too have been raising funds. This should give the Explorers an international feeling while not travelling quite as far.

Development

This year we produced a Development Plan which is available for interested parties to view. It is based on a typical plan but updated with local issues. The initial plan looks at the short term and highlights some issues which need development. It is good to note that we are starting to address some of these already. However Adult Leadership is still at a low ratio compared to other Sections/ Groups in the District. This will become a bigger issue for us as we get more successful in retaining and recruiting Explorers.

Transition

There is a very useful explanation at the end of this report about how we have retained more Older Scouts who have moved on to Explorers and also that we have grown the number of Explorers overall. Richard Pratt has put a lot of work into making this happen by running Roadshows and tracking Older Scouts as they approach the moving on age. Our thanks go to Richard for his work on transfers and analysis; He has also produced a Newsletter for Scout Leaders to help them promote the idea of Explorers to Scouts. Richard lives up to the title of District Adviser – give him some information to mine and he comes back with the Book Chapter and Verse!

Programme

Unit programmes are published on the Explorer Web Site when they are available. The Explorers have been trying a wide variety of activities this year.

District activities have included the Big Game Live based at Robin Hood camp site, County Flag, County MAD and Activity Day, The Bog Weekend. We are looking forward to some of these again and also hope to revive the Inger Trophy competition with the help of the Trent Scout Network.

At the Big Weekend, Explorers and Leaders were involved in some activities including the building and launching of Coracles on the Pond. If you would like to try them out – have a word with me.

Discovery ESSU won the County MAD trophy this March and it looks like there is a second team in training for next year from the Scouts. He combined Pursuit and Pioneer Team came sixth in the Big Game Live (its like live Monopoly) which was only one place away from some prizes. I expect they will do better this year.



South West Nottinghamshire District Explorer Scouts

South West Nottinghamshire District Scout Council

District established 1911 Registration Number: 14713 Registered Charity Number: 1073964



Unit overview

Many will know that Explorers are run as a District provision like a Group but one which is made up of the same section instead of Beavers, Cubs, and Scouts. Although we have grown overall we have seen some changes to the Units this year. Pursuit and Tornado, which were newly established in the last financial year are continuing. Pursuit is maintaining a steady number while Tornado is over 20 now and attracting members from several Troops. Armstrong who met at the Depot have gone dormant for the time being as the last of the Unit have become adults. We may get a new influx for them and it is hoped that some additional Leaders may be available to help Owain who is currently convalescing. Pioneer is racing away with more than 20 and their small hall at Christchurch is getting quite full! Magellan are getting a steady flow and are getting involved in District activities. Discovery which is our specialist Water Unit mainly gets new members from 2nd Beeston Sea Scouts although Explorers are welcome to join in from other Units and areas.

Young Leaders

Anne Linsdell leads the Young Leaders Unit and provides activities and Training as required. There are about 15 Young Leaders spread out among Groups. Some Young Leaders are part of other units too and they also benefit from the training which is available. I am sure that you would agree that the Young Leaders are a great asset to Sections. If any Leaders would like information about how to support them please get in touch.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

It was great to see 3 of the Armstrong Explorers get their Bronze and Silver awards in December. Well Done!

During last summer the main emphasis was on getting a team of 6 Explorer from 3 Units through their training, practice and Final Expeditions for the Bronze Award. They should be going on to the Silver Expedition this year. This year we have about 25 Explorers lined up to do Expeditions which is quite a challenge.

The Award have introduced an electronic version of the record book now and this is proving interesting!

We are very grateful to Dave Henson for providing support for the Award by visiting Units and mentoring Leaders and arranging Assessors for us. Thanks Dave!

Thanks to the District Executive who have responsibility for Explorer Scouting; and to the District Team for their support. (Particularly Stuart, Colyn and Dave). Thanks too to all those Leaders who answer my requests for help and their Groups who offer Partnership and support.

I would like to record my thanks to all the **Leaders and supporters** in the Explorer Units, because they do all the hard work- WELL DONE!

Chris Coats - District Explorer Scout Commissioner.



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Transition and Growth- Richard Pratt- District Adviser

At January 2012 there were 74 Explorers in the District (including Young Leaders working only with Groups and not members of the regular Units).

That compares with 69 in January 2012, 7% growth over the year 2011. The figure still compares unfavourably with 227 Scouts. However, looking at individual age-groups is more encouraging.

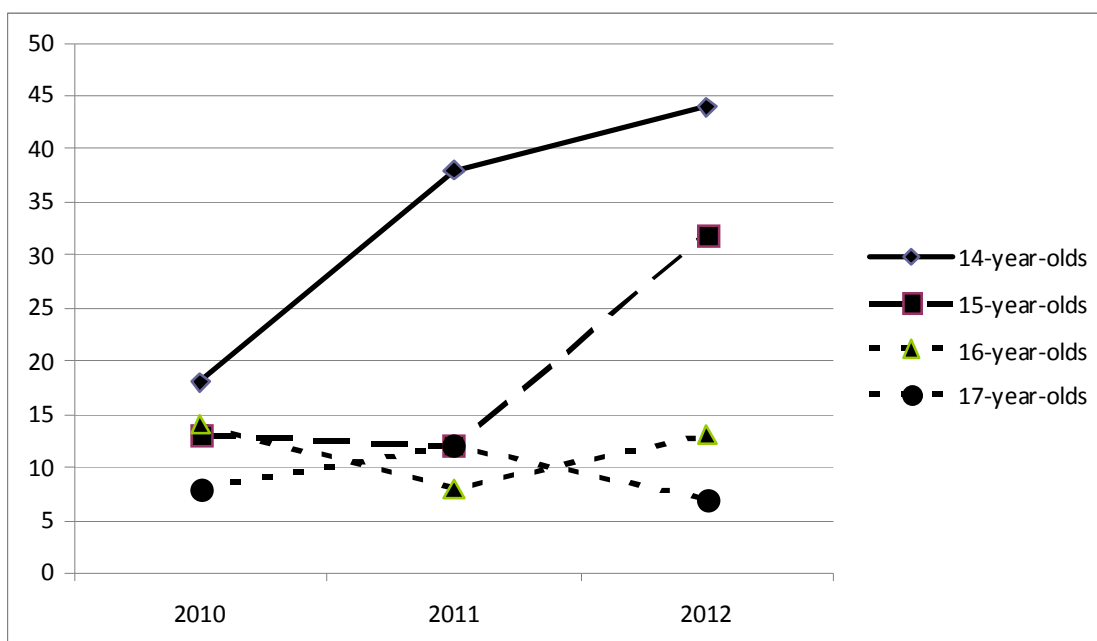
In January 2010 the District had only 18 14-year-olds (who might be Scouts or Explorers) and 13 15-year-olds.

In January 2011 the comparable figures were 38 and 12, and in 2012 44 and 32.

An alternative way of looking at it is that 18 14-year-olds from January 2010 had become only 12 15-year-olds in 2011, 33% loss, but of the 38 14-year-olds of 2011, 32 were still in Scouting at the beginning of 2012, reducing the loss to 15%. In other words, the Troops are retaining more Scouts, and the the transfer-rate from Troops to Explorers is improving.

Once young members are in Explorers, we appear to be retaining them fairly well. Of those who were 15 and 16-years-old in 2011, the year started with 20 and finished with 20, with recruits balancing out any losses.

Numbers aged 14, 15, 16 and 17, per year



Explorer Scout Provision

The accompanying map shows how the ESUs cover the District in 2012, compared with the green hexagons which show where Groups meet. Discovery appears twice because in summer they meet on Barton Island and in winter at Lilac Grove. Armstrong is greyed out because it is currently dormant.

The situation has improved since 2009, when neither Tornado nor Pursuit existed, but the lack of an active ESU in the south-west corner of the District means that Pioneer is being fed by quite a number of Troops.

The other aspect of coverage is that of time – which Units meet when, compared to when the Troops meet. When Scouts are making a decision about moving to Explorers one thing which they will take into consideration is that they (and their parents) will have arranged their lives around a particular night out.

Day	ESUs	Troops
Monday	Pioneer, Tornado	2 nd Chilwell, 2 nd Toton
Tuesday		1 st Toton, 1 st Stapleford
Wednesday	Pursuit, (Armstrong)	5 th Stapleford
Thursday	Magellan, Discovery	1 st Chilwell and Attenborough
Friday		2 nd Beeston, 6 th Beeston, 3 rd Chilwell, 2 nd Attenborough, 1 st Chilwell Depot, 2 nd Bramcote, 1 st Trowell

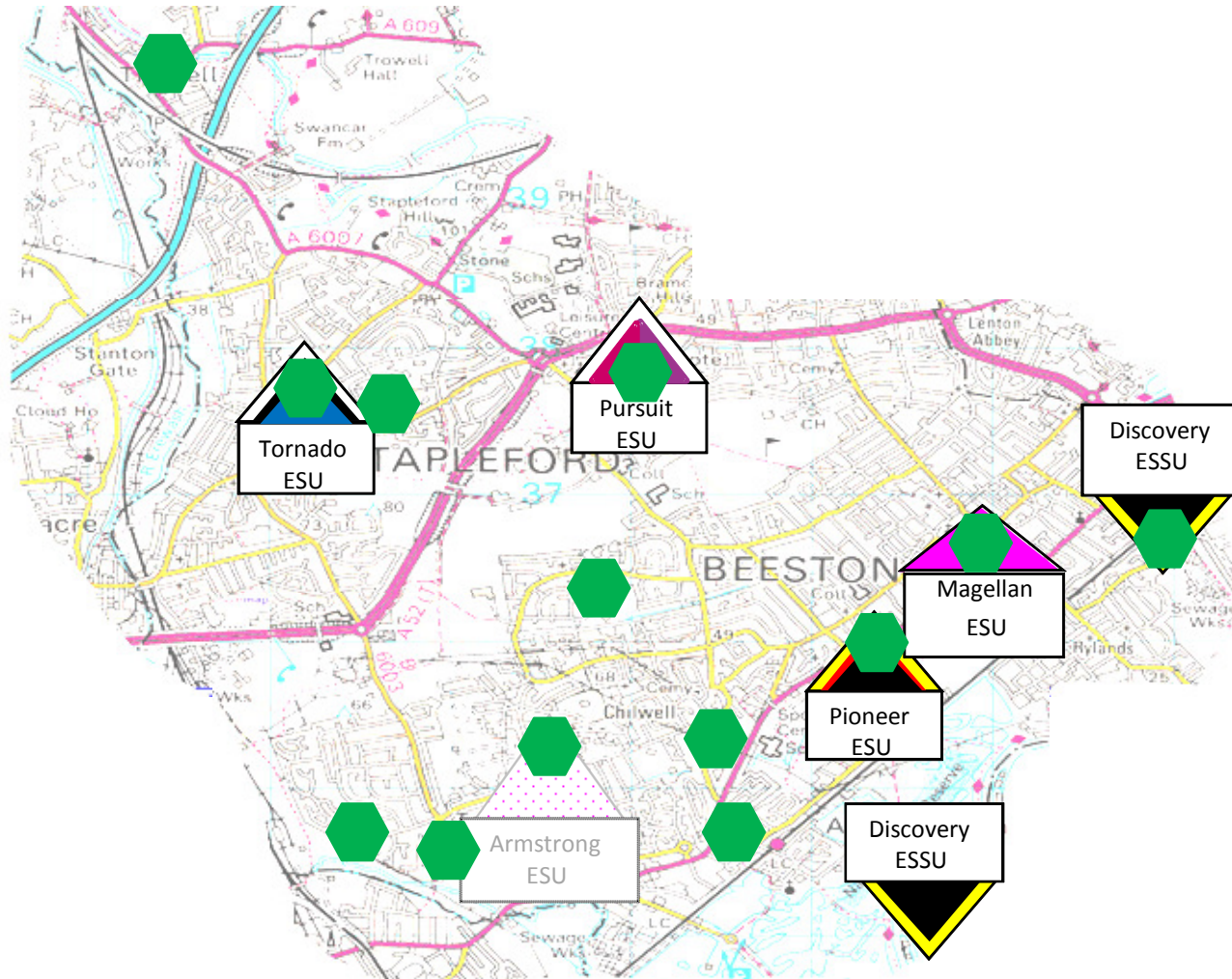
So, there is no ESU which covers the night when most Troops meet – but, of course, the main reason for that is that the HQs are in use by the Troops, so there's no available meeting place.



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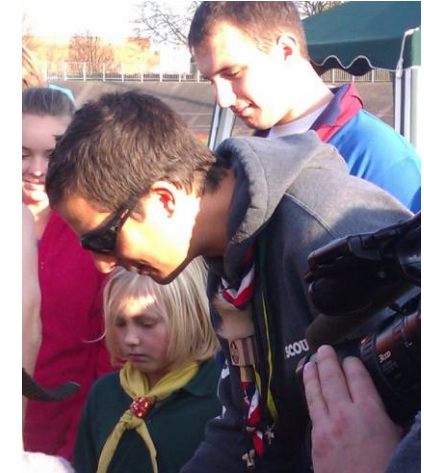
Tornado trying survival skills.



Armstrong Explorer Matt Horry receiving Silver DofE with DC and proud Grandfather.



Armstrong Explorers DofE presentations.



Bear trying the Explorers cooking at County Flag



Pursuit/ Pioneer at the Big Game Live!



Discovery winners at County MAD