

*South West Notts
Explorer Scouts
Newsletter*

EXPLORERS[✿]

This Newsletter is sent to all SLs and GSLs in SW Notts District, so that you know what Explorers are doing, and therefore can encourage your Scouts to move up.

International

You will recall from the last couple of newsletters that Explorer Scouts from South West Notts made a summer expedition to Rotterdam in 2015. There they met some Dutch Scouts of the equivalent age-group, and they agreed that the Dutch ought to come to England this year. In the true spirit of youth-shaped Scouting neither side consulted their leaders first!

However, the visit is going ahead and in July the Dutch will be camping at Walesby, and Explorers from SW Notts will join them for part of the time. Details of the programme still have to be worked out.

Other News

Last Summer

As well as the Rotterdam camp, many of the Explorers went to a camp at Walesby:

Kayaking:



Collecting pond-weed when the kayak sank!



Negotiating the obstacle course

More Recently

Trying out
"mocktails"



... and sampling
pancakes

Having refuelled, they have to get rid of the energy:



And, as a contrast to summer camp, back to Walesby in the winter.



Possible Future Events

Gilwell 24

Possibly a water skills camp

Faith outing to Synagogue in city centre

Disability awareness evening with blind dogs or mental health charity

A forum to decide where Pioneer will go on summer camp next year

Big Game Live (an annual County event, going as far as possible around Nottingham using public transport)

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Various DofE expeditions are in the planning stage. In particular, some members of Pioneer want to do theirs by canoe, so they will have to have a canoe skills camp first.

Sharman (Young Leader) ESU

Young Leader training has been continuing this spring; the photograph on the next page shows a bunch after completing modules in January. GSLs - please remember that young people helping with Troop, Pack or Colony, must complete basic training (safety, etc.) even if they are only doing it for the "Volunteering" part of DofE. However, there is a lot more open to them, and if you encourage them to take part you will find that they will become more valuable in their roles.



Raise us some money!

Many of our Explorers are at school or College, and even those who are working are not yet high-earners, so additional funding for activities is always useful. Two easy ways to help us are to use **easysearch** and **easyfundraising**.

By using **easysearch** instead of Google or any other search engine, you can make a real difference, because for each online search using it you perform a donation goes to your chosen charity. **easysearch** is completely FREE and by making just 10 searches a day, you could raise around £20 a year for us.

As well as raising funds, **easysearch** also gives you the best search results available on web. Today, the Internet is so big that different search engines will often deliver different results for the same search. So, by combining the strengths of several search engines together - Yahoo!, MIVA, and many more - you get the very best results in terms of accuracy and relevance, which means you'll find what you're looking for quickly and easily every time - all in one 'easy' search!

If you use internet shopping, then having found a site via **easysearch**, if the supplier is registered with **easyfundraising** each purchase raises a further donation from the supplier. Supermarkets, department stores and holiday firms are all available (nearly 3000 according to easyfundraising Ltd.'s publicity).

To start using either of these, go to easyfundraising.org.uk/SW Notts Explorer Scouts and register. If a supplier gives donations, a banner will appear on your browser when you look at their site.

Contact Information

There are 5 Units in the District, Tornado in Stapleford and Pioneer in Inham Nook, meeting on Mondays, Magellan and Discovery both meeting in Beeston on Thursdays, and Sharman, the Unit for Young Leaders, meeting when and where necessary for training. Explorers can be members of Sharman and one of the other Units as well, and Young Leaders are free to take part in any District or County Explorer activities.

If you have Scouts approaching the transfer age (between 13y6m and 14y6m), in the first place please contact the ESL of the Unit to which your Troop normally transfers Scouts.
Discovery - Louise Bosworth, Magellan - Tom Genway, Pioneer - Matt Styles, Tornado & Sharman - Anne Linsdell

If that Unit doesn't suit the Scout, they have the choice of any Unit, and the following can advise:

Chris Coats, District Explorer Scout Commissioner, coatscg@gmail.com, tel: 0115 9522849
or the editor of this newsletter:

Richard Pratt, District Adviser, richard.pratt62@alumni.imperial.ac.uk, tel: 0115 9436965.

If Scouts wish to find out more about Explorers, they can look at the Explorer website <http://www.explorers.swnotts-scouts.org.uk>, or if they are on Facebook the two FB groups **SW Notts Scouts** and **SW Notts Explorers** also carry postings.