

South West Notts Explorer

Newsletter



July 2014

This newsletter brings you up to date with the activities of the Explorer Scouts of South West Notts. It is sent to all SLs and GSLs in the District.

Richard Pratt, District Adviser

District

Explorer Scout Provision

Transition is progressing well.

There is still more to do to retain older Explorers and it looks like there may be some progress in some Units. This may result in more Leaders and not necessarily more Network members.

Fund-raising

I am still arranging a Concert in October to raise funds for Explorers towards International Activities (Jamboree and other). This is with the Carlton Male Voice Choir and will be in either Chilwell or Beeston. Details will be circulated when finalised.

(Extract from the report by Chris Coats, DESC, to District Executive)

International

Japan Jamboree 2015

Fundraising - Explorers and Scouts going to Jamboree are about on target.



Kandersteg 2014

Tornado are in the last stages of preparation for their trip to the International Scout Centre at Kandersteg, Switzerland, a joint activity with Tempest ESU from the City. As part of their fundraising they held a Race Night in their Scout Headquarters. Many members of the public and fellow scout members from across the District attended, enjoying the fish and chips supplied by Andy's Fish Bar, drink supplied by the

bar, and betting on many horse races. All enjoyed it, and many have asked for another to be arranged. It was very successful, raising just under £375. (Report by Owen Underwood, Explorer, Tornado ESU)

Thoughts for the Future

The International Camp next year for those not on Jamboree is likely to be a visit to the "Scoutcentrum Rotterdam" in the Netherlands. We will be joining in with the 2nd Beeston and 2nd Attenborough Scout Troops who have used this site a few times. A separate Explorer programme will be planned by the Explorers but there will be some joint activities.



There may also be a visit to Peak 2015 next year at Chatsworth House depending on what the Explorers want to do.

IMPORTANT

SLs Planning for Rotterdam or Peak will begin in the autumn. If you have Scouts who will be ready for Explorers in the next school year, please ensure that they can be involved by telling an ESL or the DESC about them.

GSLs These events are open to Young Leaders. Please encourage them to participate; they will gain from the experience, and so will their Section.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Katie Anderson of Tornado ESU has been awarded her Bronze DofE by David Henson, the County DofE advisor.

Also, a team from Tornado have completed their Canoe Qualifier expedition for their Silver DofE Award. They overcame their planning difficulties, had a successful trip and have given the requisite presentation to an audience of other Explorers, the DC and DESC, the assessors and their parents.



Owen Underwood wrote:

Using canoes hired from a nearby Scout Group, the team travelled over 30 miles, starting at the Outdoor Pursuits Centre in Leicester, and finishing at Holme Pierrepont, Nottingham.

After two hours delay due to horrendous traffic, they made good time travelling down the River Soar reaching their campsite at Proctors Park, Barrow upon Soar, a common haunt for Leicestershire County. Travelling to Trent Lock on the second day, they had to endure many hardships, from portaging locks, to being forced to watch their assessors enjoy a full pub lunch while they

dined on a meagre diet of biscuits, crisps, and fruit.

The third day consisted of a current propelled cruise down the Trent, arriving at the final point inside of time and almost refreshed. They said they enjoyed the experience, and have been invited to join Trent Lock Activity Centre as staff on their camping weekends. (See page 3)

The intention for September onwards is to run a regular DofE "Unit" meeting twice a month to cover all aspects of the DofE Award and possibly to include the Chief Scout's Award and Queen's Scout Award aspects. This is widening the scope from the initial Expedition training and should improve the Explorers planning and documenting of their Awards. (Chris Coats)

Phantom of the Opera

Just to emphasise the wide-ranging nature of Explorer activities, the summer term saw a visit to the theatre by members of several Units, to see "The Phantom of the Opera". The evening was thoroughly enjoyed. Thanks to Joseph Heil (Magellan AESL) for organising this.

Gilwell 24

Gilwell 24: a test of endurance, skills & sleep deprivation. 24 hours of activities & challenges dedicated to the 3500 Explorers on site!

More festival than structured camp, highlights included the water sliding, quad biking, fairground rides, brush boarding, Birthday celebrations, gifted pizza, investitures on a high rope assault course, and of course, the all night disco...

Not everyone made it through the whole night, but at breakfast everyone had a story to tell about their adventures. Thanks team for a great trip!

(Karen Wood, Pioneer ESL)



Trent Lock Scout Activity Centre (TLSAC)

In case anybody isn't aware, TLSAC is situated just upstream of the junction of the River Trent and the Erewash Canal, on the south bank of the river. It has a large building, a camping field and all sorts of watercraft. Various Groups from S W Notts have used it over the past few years; now some of our Explorers are getting roped in as site staff and instructors:

Owen Underwood (again!) writes:

Every six weeks, members of Tornado Explorers go down to Trent Lock Scout Activity Centre and work as staff, learning the skills needed for running water activities, learning the safety behind the work, and gaining qualifications needed to take scouts and members of the public out onto the water on their own. They camp overnight and spend a lot of time on the water, learning and playing.

TLSAC (continued)

Currently, most of us are working on our 2 star paddlesports, and much of these help towards earning badges such as the new time on water badge, paddlesports activity badge, water activities badge, while some aspects of raft building help the pioneer activity badge.

Members of Tornado are seen here instructing Scouts and Cubs at TLSAC.



Tornado are not the only ESU involved at Trent Lock; these pictures show members of Pioneer on the water and giving the building a spring-clean.



Unit News

Discovery

Discovery Explorers will be joining 2nd Beeston (their partner Group) on camp this year at Felin Bach, a Guide Campsite in Snowdonia.

Tornado

In parallel with their DofE work, members of Tornado have been working on their Chief Scouts' Awards, and the following have achieved the Platinum level:

Josh Charwood
James Bolger
Matt Hill
and Katie Anderson

These Awards were presented on the 21st July by Chris Coats, the District Explorer Scout Commissioner (DESC). At the same time two former members who had achieved the Awards but had reached the grand old age of 18 before the badges could be handed over were given theirs:

Luke Gutteridge (now in Scout Network)
and Nathan Gallagher

Congratulations to them all, and also thanks to their former Groups who laid the foundations for their success.

Moving On

- Your editor was very pleased to be there when Imogen Aikin of 2nd Bramcote was presented with her Moving On Award. Yes, there is a Moving On Award from Scouts to Explorers, just as there is between younger Sections.
- When Scouts transfer to Explorers (including becoming Young Leaders) their ESL will need from SLs the same information that you need from CSLs: contact information for them and their parents, date of joining the Movement (for Participation Awards), Nights Away, Hikes Away and Water Activity records, and details of their progress on any staged activity badges.
- If Scouts gain their Gold Chief Scout's Award, it is worn on Explorer uniform.
- A reminder of the age rules, following questions recently:
 - ❑ Scouts transfer to Explorers between the ages of 13½ & 14½, though experience shows that most benefit by being at least 14.
 - ❑ The maximum age can only be exceeded in the case of Scouts who have Special Needs, in which case the procedure laid down in POR must be followed.
 - ❑ Gilwell confirms that young people retained in the Troop after 14½ except under the Special Needs provision may be regarded as UNINSURED.
 - ❑ Scouts may become Young Leaders at the age of 14, but the Association's recommendation is that they should NOT be in their own Troop. They should either work with a younger Section, or take a break of 6 months by helping at another Troop.

Meeting Places and Times

Although of necessity most ESUs meet at Group HQs, a Scout may choose to attend any of the Units; there are no restrictions. Scouts may choose a Unit based on its programme, whether they know the existing members, its meeting night or the ease of getting there. (Magellan is right by Beeston bus station, and will be served by the tram; Pioneer is served by evening buses on the 36 and Y36 routes, and Tornado is served by i4.)

Discovery is the District Water Activities ESU.

If Scouts wish to start linking, please make sure that they contact the ESL first to confirm that the Unit is meeting at its regular place and that the meeting will suit a newcomer. It is perfectly acceptable to visit more than one Unit before they make up their minds.

Day	Name	Place	Start	Finish
Monday	Pioneer	Inham Nook Methodist Church, Inham Rd, Chilwell	20:00	21:30
	Tornado	1st Stapleford HQ	20:00	21:30
Thursday	Magellan	6th Beeston HQ	20:00	22:00
	Discovery	(Winter) 2nd Beeston HQ (Summer) Barton Island	19:30	21:00

The meeting places given above are the Units' bases, but many meetings will be elsewhere.

The Young Leader ESU meets at various places for training and social events.

(The former Pursuit and Armstrong units have had to close due to lack of members and volunteer leaders, but these may be re-kindled in the future if there is sufficient interest and if leaders can be found.)

More Information

See <http://www.swnotts-scouts.org.uk/explorers/>

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ESLs – see District Directory