

South West Notts Explorer

Newsletter



March 2015

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 Advisor

International

ScoutCentrum Rotterdam 2015

Fundraising for this trip, which is a joint venture of 2nd Beeston, 2nd Attenborough and District Explorers, has been taking place throughout the winter. These activities included regular things such as bag-packing, selling quiz-sheets and helping out at the Round Table's Santa Run, but one weekend in February twelve intrepid Explorers from across the District took part in a sponsored sleep out on a farm in Bramcote. With an unpleasant weather forecast, the team spent their afternoon constructing basic shelters using various gathered materials, including cardboard boxes, ground sheets & bubble wrap. No tents allowed!



As darkness fell, so did the rain, which put everyone's firelighting skills to the test. But with perseverance, the flames caught & the Explorers cooked a delicious backwoods dinner in the embers - homemade bread & fajitas, followed by orange cakes. The night was cold, wet & windy but by morning, the sky was clear and we were pleased to find that all shelters had survived the elements. After preparing breakfast & packing up, everyone went home with some muddy clothes, improved survival skills, and big smiles.

International (Cont)



The Nottinghamshire contingent, Hood's 40, have been busy through the winter, continuing team-building and fund-raising activities. Amongst Explorer activity badges there is now a "Fund-Raiser" badge and the SW Notts participants have earned this and will be able to wear it on their sleeves in Japan, because their camp-fees not only cover their own costs, but help to subsidise the costs for members of the Scouting family from less affluent countries.

One way in which funds were raised was by selling raffle-tickets at Nottingham Gang Show. This produced about £1100 for the Gang Show charity and the Jamboree pot.



One of the weekends included time learning about Japanese culture, in particular the etiquette that will be required when the participants are given "Home Hospitality". Here they learn how to enter a house – though it is usual for your indoor footgear to be more elegant than a couple of plastic bags!

District

Duke of Edinburgh Award

Much of the Explorer programme is closely linked in with the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme (DofE). Explorers may qualify solely through Scouting, or if their school or college runs the scheme, they can use Scouting activities to boost what the school provides.

Specific training is now being given on Tuesday nights, with a view to forming teams for Expeditions soon, and also to obtain dates for Practice and Qualifier which avoid grim realities such as exams. The first step was one which most candidates find to be the first hurdle - registering themselves for the Award and mastering eDofE, the online record-keeping system. Future work will go on to the more pleasant topics of choosing an "Aim" for their expedition, route-planning, choosing kit, and so on.

Unit News

Magellan Theatre

Members of the Unit went to the Arts Theatre to see “the Producers”. AESL Joseph Heil’s connections with drama allowed them to get a post-show backstage tour.

Pioneer

You don’t have to be mad to be an Explorer, but it definitely helps... a newspaper fashion design show resulted in one Mad Hatter and one Miss Havisham (from Dickens’ “Great Expectations”), complete with bridal train.

Young Leaders - Sharman Unit

Young Leaders are also Explorers and belong to a special Unit, whether they are a member of one of the normal Units or not. There is a training scheme designed to help them become more useful to you in their roles, and we ask Section Leaders and GSLs to encourage them to take part. In particular, it is important that they complete Module A, on safety and how child-protection affects them, within 3 months of becoming a Young Leader.

The Unit has adopted the name “Sharman”, after Dr. Helen Sharman PhD OBE, who was the first British citizen to go into space; that was in 1991 on board Soyuz TM-12, and she also became the first woman to visit the Russian space station Mir.

The Young Leader scheme has been slightly affected by the changes to the Scouting programme. The content of the training and supporting resources will be updated, making the scheme easier to use, more interesting to deliver and more challenging for young people. One important difference is that Young Leaders can now gain external recognition from the Institute of Leadership and Management (ILM) for completing the scheme, something which they can present to potential employers, universities or colleges.

Academic Excellence

One of the worries of Scouts contemplating Explorers (or, perhaps, rather their parents) is that it will take up time that ought to be devoted to school work. We have two stories to allay such fears, just to show that remaining in Scouting is not incompatible with academic achievements,:

Alistair Benford of Magellan ESU, and one of the Explorers who went to Portugal in 2012, a student at Bilborough College, was one of the team who won their way to the final of the UK Senior Teams Maths Challenge held on February 3rd in London, where they came 24th out of 80.

Academic Excellence (cont)

This Challenge is run jointly by the UK Mathematics Trust and the Further Mathematics Support Network. Alistair was also one of the top scorers in the individual senior maths challenge also run by the Trust and will be taking part in the British Mathematical Olympiad.

And another academic high-flyer .. Alastair Clarke, a sixth-former at Bluecoat School, who is also a Young Leader at 2nd Chilwell Troop has been nominated for the Nottingham Post Student Award for Science and Engineering. Last year he won the Ogden Trust's Lower Sixth Physicist of the Year Award and has also taken part in a Nuffield Foundation placement at Nottingham Trent University. (Like Alistair Benford, Alastair was one of the Explorers who went to Portugal in 2012.)

Explorer Roadshow

Explorers are able to come to your Troop to talk about Explorer Scouting.. The "Roadshow" consists of a video and a PowerPoint presentation and covers Young Leaders as well. To make a booking contact please contact Richard Pratt (District Advisor), richard.pratt83@ntlworld.com or tel: 0115 9436965.

Meeting Places and Times

Although 3 of the 5 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 what will be the Beeston bus tram/interchange; 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 Young Leader ESU, Sharman, meets at various places for training and social events.

More Information

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

Contact

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ESLs – see District Directory