

**Jamboree!**



*(Photo from FB page Notts Scout)*

**Rotterdam!**

*(Photo courtesy of Ross Strong, Sharman ESU)*



## Gilwell 24!



*(Photo from FB page Pioneer Explorer Scout Unit (S. W. Notts))*

## A Full Summer!

The Explorer Scouts of South West Notts District have been very busy this summer. Just what they have been busy doing has to be guessed from their photos posted on Facebook, because it seems to have kept them so occupied that they haven't had time to put finger to keyboard to tell us in more detail!

## Jamboree

500 young members from Great Britain, 40 from Nottinghamshire, 4 Explorers from South West Notts. These were participants in the event which we hope they will remember all their lives, the 2015 world Jamboree in Japan.

They experienced Japan in its modernity - the bullet-train and the neon lights of Tokyo - its ancient history - temples and customs - and its 20th century history with a visit to Hiroshima. For 1094 photographs (plus some videos) go to the Facebook page <**Notts Scout**>.

## Rotterdam

It took about 8 months of preparation and fundraising, but in July at last it happened. In the company of 2nd Beeston and 2nd Attenborough Scouts, 20 Explorers from Pioneer, Discovery, and Sharman Units, plus 1 more from a City Unit, travelled to Scout Centrum Rotterdam using Eurostar.

As well as exploring Rotterdam itself and meeting other campers from the Netherlands and Germany, the Explorers did some raft-building and other pioneering activities on the centre's pool (which in the photos appears to be solid green), they went cultural by visiting the museum of the famous Dutch artist of impossibilities MC Escher, spent time at the Dutch city in miniature Madurodam, and cycled to Gouda, riding the traditional local cycles which have no brakes; they learned to stop by back-peddalling before anybody hit anything important! They also had a certain amount of traditional Scouting, building camp tables and other gadgets, and cooking on wood fires.

The participants tell us that a video will be available in due course.

## Gilwell 24

"You don't have to be mad to be a Scouter, but it helps". Many is the Scouting adult who has muttered this, but of nobody is it more obviously true than the Gilwell Park team who for several years have hosted Gilwell 24. This is an event for Explorer Scouts in which the principal aim is not to sleep for 24 hours - 24 hours of non-stop activities. Once again, apart from gathering that those of Pioneer ESU who went thoroughly enjoyed themselves, we have had difficulty in finding out what went on - their brains were obviously addled by the experience and memories wiped. However, photographic evidence exists on Facebook page <**Pioneer Explorer Scout Unit (S. W. Notts)**> to show that they drove tracked vehicles cross-country, slid down water-slides, tried to make a horned god out of one of their number — and did find time to cook themselves at least one meal!

## Other News

### Duke Of Edinburgh's Award

During the summer 10 Explorers undertook their qualifying expeditions for the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award. They now face their next challenge - completing the on-line paperwork! Once that is done, there seems to be no reason why they should not gain their Awards.

An attempt by Tornado's canoeing group to complete their Gold Award by canoeing the Caledonian Canal was defeated by logistical problems, but they will be having another try as Network members next year.

There are a variety of ways to complete DofE. An Explorer may register with Scouting and perform their expeditions under Scouting's aegis, but do their service with other organisations. Or they may register with their school or college, but count some Scouting activities towards their achievements. Given that some may be doing Bronze, some Silver,

and some Gold, while others may not be doing DofE at all, it makes it difficult to incorporate DofE activities into regular Unit meetings, so this year a "Virtual Unit" has been meeting on Tuesdays in order to concentrate on DofE, in particular expedition skills such as map-reading. This DofE Unit could use some more adult support (instructors/supervisors/assessors), so if any leaders are interested please get in touch with Chris Coats (contact information below).

## **Pioneer ESU have moved!**

As from April 2015 they have been meeting at St. Barnabas Church, Inham Nook, instead of Inham Nook Methodist Church. St. Barnabas is at the junction of Inham Road and Barn Croft, about 50 yards from the Methodist Church. The move is due to the impending sale of the Methodist Church; we thank the local Methodist Circuit for their past hospitality.

## **Admin**

Explorer Scouting is a continuation of a young person's Scouting career. It is therefore important that SLs pass a Scouts record onto ESLs; as a minimum what is required is the date on which a young person joined Scouting (as Beaver, Cub or Scout), the numbers of Nights Away and Hikes Away and Time on Water events they have completed. Information about other Staged Activity Badges is also valuable.

## EXPLORERS

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

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

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

NB - During the summer Richard changed his email address - please be sure that you're up-to-date.

ESLs – There have been changes recently. Louise Bosworth is now in charge at Discovery, Tom Genway at Magellan and Matt Styles at Pioneer. Anne Linsdell remains ESL of Tornado and Sharman

And, to finish...Two more photos from Japan.



Some of Hood's 40, the Nottinghamshire contingent.

*(Photo by Holly Webb on FB page Notts Scout)*



The photo that Jesse Charles (Tornado ESU) describes as one of his favourites.

*(Photo on FB page Notts Scout)*