

SGOWTIAID

The quarterly bulletin of the Scouts of Wales

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CIRCULATED—WEEK BEGINNING
30TH JUNE, 2003

Welsh Scout Council
Cyngor Sgowtiaid
Cymru

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CASH FOR SPORTS

The Sports Council for Wales wants to help community groups develop more and better opportunities for young people to take part in sport. Grants are available for projects aimed at increasing participation in sport. This might include, for example, outdoor adventurous activities, traditional games, fitness activities or life sports such as golf, tennis, bowls, badminton and orienteering.



Projects that might be supported include: the recruitment and training of volunteers, improving the skills of coaches and leaders, purchase of non-personal equipment, setting up new competitions and festivals, developing links with local sports clubs.



Funding up to £750.00 is available through the SPORTLOT Community Chest. Further details are available from your Local Authority Community Chest Grants Officer or Grants Office, Sports Council for Wales, telephone: 029 2030 524. You can also look at the Sport Council website: www.sports-council-wales.co.uk

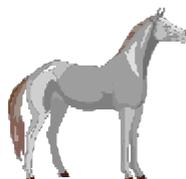


SOUNDS FAMILIAR?

The tribal wisdom of the Dakota Indians, passed on from generation to generation, says that 'when you discover that your are riding a dead horse, the best strategy is to dismount'. However, in the voluntary sector we often employ far more advanced strategies, such as:

1. Changing riders.
2. Appointing a committee to study the horse.
3. Arranging to visit other countries to see how others ride dead horses.
4. Lowering the standards so that dead horses can be included.
5. Reclassifying the dead horse as 'living impaired'.
6. Hiring contractors/consultants to ride the dead horse.
7. Harnessing several dead horses together in an attempt to increase the speed.
8. Providing additional funding and/or training to increase the dead horse's performance.
9. Doing a productivity study to see if lighter riders would improve the dead horse's performance.
10. Declaring that as the dead horse does not have to be fed, it is less costly, carries lower overheads, and therefore contributes substantially more to the mission of the organisation than do some other horses.

Mmmmm—sound familiar?

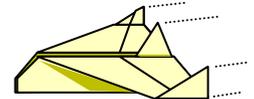


WRIGHT CHALLENGE

To celebrate 100 years since the Wright Brothers achieved the world's first powered flight BAE Systems and the British Model flying Association (the BMFA) have announced The Wright Challenge.

The Wright Challenge is a UK based competition aimed at young people between the ages of 7 and 16. Its aim is for young people to use their initiative and imagination to design, build and fly three different model aircraft.

To find out more look up:
www.thewrightchallenge.com.



LINKS

We have been approached by the 47th St Bartholomews (Blurton) Scout Group from Blurton near Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire. They are interesting in starting up a link with another Group as they are working towards The International Friendship Award. The Group consists of 15 Beaver Scouts and 16 Cub Scouts. At present they do not have a Scout Troop.

If you are interested in linking with the Group please e-mail
lan Allerton at: blurton.group@ntlworld.com



SPLASH!



RIVER WYE CANOE CRUISE REPORT 2003

116 Canoeists completed the estimated 35 miles supported by a further 16 shore personnel. The weather was quite good (I did see sun cream being applied at one point!), the River was up a little which speeds up the passage time and causes the shore gang to flap a bit, but happen it did with all the usual smiling faces. It was good to see many of the regulars again. This year's event was a learning curve for the Organising Team with only one aspect which we can tighten up on. Certain information came to us a little late, but we are there now, so apologies to those who found us wanting in that area.

Something new for the Sunday evening at the Biblins was the come and cook BBQ, which I am sure everyone enjoyed and when it catches on will attract even more. We had a little rain to dampen our spirits, but once the cloud passed the purpose of the BBQ was realised when many gathered around the flames to enjoy the chit chat—not forgetting our flame whirling act provided by our resident clown Peter. I will say no more, but what a way to light a fire!

Eleven Groups were represented from: North Ceredigion Explorer Scouts, 3rd Aberystwyth, Bwlchgwyn, Porthmadog, Llangefni, Mynydd Isa, Penyffordd, Ruthin, Sychdyn, Llangennech and Cardigan, plus well-qualified experienced paddlers who help keep us within our Authorisation Rules and finally the Organising Team. I would like to extend an invitation to all who took part to send in any new ideas to us. Any critics will be sent down Symonds Yat without a canoe, rapidly pursued by Barry with his whip!



Take care all, see you next time or come to the North Wales Activity weekend—this year there is a chance to do a little sailing as well and finally the River Severn Canoe Cruise. If you want to know more contact: Barry —01766 512159, Steve—07968 354008, Dave—01244 550904, Ron—01407 730593

ISLWYN TRAINING & ASSESSMENT WEEKEND REPORT 2003

I am pleased to report another very successful event, 51 applicants to add to our tally, many happy smiling faces, wet but how they love it. The following Groups took part: 1st Henllys, 3rd Aberystwyth, Llanishen and 28th Newport. Numbers such as this make it all worthwhile, not only to the Organisers but also to the Leaders of these Troops. Well done to all concerned, and of course, to the young people as well. A near enough 90% pass mark was achieved, so we must thank the Caerleon Canoe Club once again for their professional delivery. High Standards were achieved and maintained throughout the weekend, it is really something to watch them in action.

A word of thanks to our support team for the 5-star sandwich treatment, Clive Harrison, the local District Commissioner, and Dave Terrell ADC, and last of all to the mystery man who made the sandwiches. Don't forget, log all your time ready for the next session.

RON COX
WATER ACTIVITIES ADVISER FOR WALES

LLANGEFNI ON THE RIVER WYE!



On 25th April the Llangefni Explorer Unit set off in a minibus, loaded to the gunwales with kit and sweets and driven by their long suffering Leader, Andrew. Fortunately, the 4-hour journey passed quite quickly,

thanks to long recitals of Bohemian Rhapsody, and the fact that it was taken in turns to view the world through the really cool yellow shades, stolen from Richard's 10 year-old next door neighbour. Next day with amazing timing, as the boats were dropped down the bank and into the water, the previously clear blue sky clouded over, the wind got up and it rained on and off through the day from there on—in keeping with all Scouting and canoeing traditions. Progress was erratic, as the three kayaks and two canoes were paddled, or more usually floated unaided, down the river to the lunch spot. This was carefully chosen to coincide with a particularly dense area of nettles making disembarking an interesting experience, particularly if the paddlers were asleep at the time and had to paddle back upstream to get stung!

The second morning dawned bright and cold, breakfasts were cooked. However, numerous attempts were made by Caerphilly to steal the Welsh flag so proudly borne by Llangefni. The natural superiority of the Llangefni Group soon became apparent as the flag remained firmly in place and the attackers were dealt with in an effective fashion. We believe all those sunk did make it to the campsite, but it may have taken them a while When not defending the Dragon rapid progress was made down the river by rafting up several boats and allowing them to float with the current, whilst paddlers ensured they became suitably sunburnt. The exciting end of the day came when the rapids of Symonds Yat were shot with skill and dexterity. Attempts to try again were not entirely successful, and perhaps upstream paddling needs to be worked on in future. All stayed upright in the Llangefni Group, but several other Canadian canoes decided to see if they would float whilst full of water. The third day's paddle was a gently float through leafy groves. We hardly saw another group, though a hasty rower in a powerful skiff shot past us on several occasions, with muscles pumping and face grimaced. Scout policy dictated energy should be better conserved, and despite attempts to float passed him his boat was obviously built for speed. The final stage was reached by lunchtime.



JESSICA DAVIDSON
SNOWDONIA & ANGLESEY SCOUT NETWORK

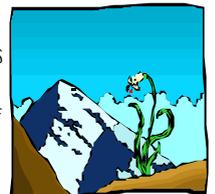
MOUNTAIN EXPERIENCE

Mountain walking with just a few friends, adventure beckoning but never ending. Deep rocky valleys and snow covered peaks, shimmering lakes and wind which shrieks. Skulking mists and rainy drizzle, map and compass, torch and whistle.

Silver clouds and shadows aloft, the 'Snowdon Lily' with its colours so soft,

Bowing grasses with dazzling hue, swaying in the winds of time.

Why is it thus all this world is mine?



Secret places, spiralling rock faces, hidden lakes and muddy bootlaces. Fantastic adventures in magical days, glittering stars in a milky haze.

Sunny days with the air so brisk, walking in the Welsh Mountains with little risk.

Freedom with mountains abound.

The very place where Yr Hafod is found.

Scouts of Wales, come and use Hafod for a real mountain experience. Welsh mountain accommodation for training and leisure.

Contact for training: GEOFF MORLEY, HILLCREST, SKIRWITH, PENRITH, CUMBRIA CA10 1RH. Telephone: 01768 88709. E-mail: geoffmorley@supanet.com

Contact for accommodation only: WYN OWEN, GLYNDERI FARM, FOELGASTELL, LLANELLI, CARMARTHENSHIRE SA14 7EL. Telephone: 01269 84402. E-mail:

glynderi@supanet.com

Or you can visit our website: www.yrhafod.org.uk for information regarding all our activities.



Now that summer is here, I'm sure you are all ready for a well-earned rest. However, here a couple of things to think about during the summer break.

30TH SEPTEMBER, 2003

Deadline for submission of badge design for the Older Beaver Scout/Younger Cub Scout event to your AAC Beaver Scouts or Cub Scouts. Design competition open to all current Beaver and Cub Scouts; theme for the event is FUN OLYMPICS; 3" diameter circular badge with three colours plus the background colour. A shortlist of three will be chosen by the Teams for final decision by the Chief Commissioner of Wales at the Autumn meeting. The event is planned for 25 September, 2004.

SELF REVIEW—see Section 6 in the Colony Essentials.

Most of you will have been working with the new programme for a year now, and it is time to look back, check what you did, how it went, and how you feel about the Colony and the things you do. Make it a social get-together for all the Leaders during August and check out your successes from last year and your plans for the next.

WELSH BEAVER SCOUT AWARD

Look out for news of the Commissioner's Colony Challenge and plan to include the Award in your programme for 2003/2004 for a chance to receive a special certificate on completion.

Have a good break and come back in September ready for another year of Fun and Friends in your Colony.

BARBARA TURTON

COMMISSIONER FOR BEAVER SCOUTS (WALES)



Hello everyone. After the success of the Workshop we are now moving on to the next project which is the Older Beaver Scout/Younger Cub Scout link Day. The Project Team met in May and had a very productive meeting. The theme for this day is FUN OLYMPICS, but we must stress that this is not intended to be an athletics event! Its aim is to be FUN, and it is to be CHALLENGING for the young people.

The date for this event for you to jot down in your diaries now is:

25th September, 2004.

We would like a badge designed by Beaver Scouts and Cub Scouts. See Barbara's article above for details of the badge design competition. Any queries please contact your AAC who has further details of the event.

Have a good summer and don't forget the National Commissioner's Challenge. I am looking forward to hearing about your campfires and who had the most unusual location.

JAN LLOYD

COMMISSIONER FOR CUB SCOUTS



HOW'S THE DRAGON?

Back in January we revamped the Dragon Award. I say revamped, but it seems that a large percentage of you reading Sgowtiaid did not know that it existed. This Award is not just for Scouts, but also for Explorer Scouts, members of the Network and all Leaders. To get a Bronze Award you have to spend one night under canvas or bivouac in each of the 12 months. It doesn't have to be done within one calendar year; it may take any length of time to complete. I know that some of you have already worked out that a camp that spans the end of one month and the start of another gets two ticks!

Once someone has got the Bronze, they then have to complete 12 challenges at each of the Silver and Gold stages. These include things like 'camp above 600m', and 'camp with a friend you wish to introduce to the Movement'. The Award was originally introduced in January 1998, and it has been agreed that if anyone wants to start eh Award now, they can include activities that they've done since then. By now most Troops, Units and Networks should be well into their Bronze Award. So should most Leaders.

Scouting Magazine mentioned it earlier this year, and it seems that there will be quite a few English wearing the Dragon before too long! If you can get to a computer, have a look at www.scoutbase.org.uk/wales and you will find links to more about the Award. You can even download a print of the record card. Or, if you do not have internet access you can order copies of the record card from the Welsh Scout Council office. For more info, you can contact your AAC, the Welsh Scout Council or me. My e-mail address is scouts@catvog.org



STEVE TUPPER

COMMISSIONER FOR SCOUTS (WALES)



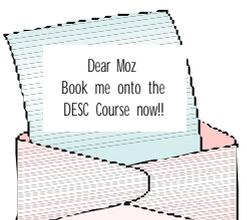
DESC COURSE ONLY £50!

12TH—14TH SEPTEMBER, BLACKWELL COURT, BIRMINGHAM

So far, we haven't had enough applicants to make this course viable. Unless we get enough by the end of July, it will be cancelled. **So it's your last chance!**

If you've been appointed as a District Explorer Scout Commissioner you'd find the job a lot easier after attending this course. District Explorer Scout Administrators or District Commissioners, who haven't filled these posts yet and would like to find out how the Section's supposed to work, are also encouraged to attend.

The course is really intensive, and your brain will hurt at the end of it, but covers all aspects of the role of District Explorer Scout Commissioner. Just being with other DESCs and working with them for the weekend will help you understand your role better. If you want to apply, send a cheque for £50 payable to the Welsh Scout Council to David Morris, 55 Bradley Road, Wrexham LL13 7TG.



MOZ (David Morris)

COMMISSIONER FOR EXPLORER SCOUTS (WALES)

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SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT
OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN WALES

If you want any information about articles in this Bulletin or about Scouting in Wales, please contact Shirley Myall at the Welsh Scout Council office.

Welsh Scout Council Annual General Meeting

DATE: 4th October, 2005

VENUE: The Pavilion Conference Centre,
Llandrindod Wells

TIME: to commence at 2.30 p.m.

Come and hear all about the World Jamboree in Thailand. Presentation with video from the Contingent Members.

EVERYONE WELCOME!

WE'RE ON THE WEB—
www.scoutbase.org.uk/wales

Deadline for next Edition:

30TH SEPTEMBER, 2003



TOMMY'S RECYCLING CAMPAIGN

Tommy's Campaign is a charity that carries out invaluable research into problem pregnancies and stillbirths. The charity help to pay for vital research to help reduce the number of babies born too small or too soon, currently over 40,000 a year and they also fund research into why currently one in five women experience miscarriage.

By March 2003 they had paid over £165,000 into this research by recycling empty printer cartridges.

You will find pre-paid envelopes attached to many HP cartridges but the recyclers will also provide you will envelopes or labels for laser cartridges for other makes (refilled cartridges cannot be used). If you gather 10 or more laser cartridges or 20 inkjet cartridges will organise a collection. Cartridges sent in via this scheme will help to raise an additional £50,000 this year for the research.

So, if you do not wish to collect cartridges for recycling to raise money for your own Group, you could recycle cartridges for this charity as you only need one or two at a time and postage is free.

For further information look at www.tommys.org or e-mail: savan.kumar@inkagain.co.uk and ask for pre-paid envelopes and/or labels. Alternatively you can telephone Savan Kumar, Tommy's Recycling Campaign on 0800 435 576 Ext. 2015.

BLAST!!

Blast from the BBC inspires and encourages teenagers to bring their creative ideas to life, and during 2002 successfully engaged a large number of young people in creative activities, showcasing over 150 films on Blast TV.

13-19 year olds, with a creative idea in mind can discuss their ideas with experts and peers on the message boards and participate in regular live chats with a chance to question to question behind-the-scenes professionals.

If anyone in this age group has already made a film or video featuring their work, send it to Blast TV by 29 August 2003.

The Blast website and phone line offer advice and support and stimulating creativity across the art forms whether it be hip hop, bhangra, bollywood or ballet.

There will be a TV campaign in July and you can get regular updates on Blast events by visiting the website and signing up for a newsletter.

Website: www.bbc.co.uk/blast
Blast Telephone line: 0800 011 011 (all calls are free and lines are open 7.00 a.m. to midnight every day).

REMINDER!!

Going away to camp this summer—going to order Welsh neckerchiefs to ensure everyone knows you are from Wales? Don't leave it until the last minute! Make sure of your neckers and order now!