

Gordanoos July / August 2009

Welcome to the July / August edition of Gordanoos.

Message from DC - Phil.....I hope you are all having a great summer; holidays and those camping have had a good time, with some favourable weather.

Beaver Day 19th and Cub Day 20th Sept. We have lots of activities being arranged for the coming year and beyond. The first of these events is our Beaver and Cub days at Glenny Wood on the 19th and 20th September. Ellen Bolton ADC Cubs is leading on this event and has recently sent out information to Leaders. Please let Ellen know your Colony / Pack will be attending.

District Plan. The District team recently reviewed the District Plan. A draft revised plan will be available shortly for comment and feedback. In the Autumn we will hold a special Adults in Scouting meeting to launch this plan and to update everyone.

Glenny Wood. The development continues; we recently started laying 140 tons of drainage stone for the sports field. Many thanks to all those who helped last Saturday. We still need to finish this and lay drainage stone to help resolve the issues with the septic tank, **so this Saturday 29th August we will be at Glenny and your HELP would be greatly appreciated, 07:30 onwards.** We do need more people please stepping forward and helping, we have done much at Glenny and there is so much more that could be achieved with more help.

CRB. A very important reminder and clarification if needed. **NO ONE** can be a leader or assist in Scouting, be it a section evening, camps, providing transport, Group executive etc... unless they are CRB cleared by Gordano District. Please do not flaunt this absolute rule. Your GSL's hold forms or they are available from Kath Woolcock. Please remember the GSL / DESC / District team members are authorised then to check and complete the back of the form and send the form to Kath for further checking and then for processing via HQ to CRB. When planning events always allow 3 months for CRB clearance. NO EXCEPTIONS.

Woodbadge – Now is a good time to look at the training you need to complete to gain your Woodbadge, 3 years from the date of appointment or if longer as soon as possible now. If you don't have your woodbadge yet, then its time to make that change, complete your training needs analysis and then action the agreed training to achieve the Woodbadge. Please contact your GSL / DESC or Brian Andrews (andrews.waterside@talktalk.net)

Scouters married

Congratulations to Michael and Angela Daynes, on their Wedding in July. Michael, DESC and Angela ACSL, who met through Scouting, were married at Boringdon Hall hotel in Plympton near Plymouth, with family and many Scouting friends from Gordano enjoying a wonderful day. The wedding was followed by the newly weds honeymooning in the Italian lakes. Many congratulations to you both.



Astronomer Badge

I have received the following E Mail from Matina Mitchell, Learning and Audience Development Officer, Herschel Museum of Astronomy, 19 New King Street, Bath BA1 2BL. Tel: 01225 446865 - www.bath-preservation-trust.org.uk

Are any of your Scouts or Cub Scouts planning on, or currently working towards, their Astronomer badges? Whether they have been enthused by the huge range of International Year of Astronomy events taking place in 2009, or simply have a general interest in Space and all things Astronomy-related, we can help!

The Herschel Museum of Astronomy in Bath is perfectly situated for any Scout pack in the South-West. We run several hands-on workshops which would be absolutely ideal for groups of Scouts wanting to complete their 'Astronomer' badges, including:

explaining the movements of the bodies in the Solar system by making moveable model orreries to take home, exploring different space-related natural phenomena seen from Earth (northern lights, shooting stars, comets, eclipses etc), identifying and drawing constellations and getting creative with myths and star pictures.

Please get in touch with us to discuss what we can offer you!

The museum is available for group bookings whenever we are closed to the general public, and can be opened after hours for a modest fee. The Museum's Georgian garden is a lovely setting for badge presentations too...

Avon Scout Shooting & Archery Competitions Sunday 27 September

This year the competition is being held near Bath with the added optional attraction of Clay Pigeon Shooting. Again the bacon butty will be available on arrival to fuel you up for the competition. Please find details for the Avon Scout County Shooting & Archery Competitions at http://www.avonscouts.org.uk/rifleclub/Forms/asrc_entry_form%202009.pdf.

If you or members of your troop / unit are interested in taking part please get in contact with Karl Day. Kday@blueyonder.co.uk I know we have some very good shots in the Troops and Explorers and it would be a great day out for all those that want to go.

Congratulations to Jamie

Congratulations to Jamie Gilbert, Scout Leader – Yeo Troop, 1st Portishead on gaining his accreditation as a qualified Bush craft instructor with the Accredited Practitioner of the Institute for Outdoor Learning.

I am sure if you contact Jamie he would be pleased to pass on any Bush craft advice to you - gilbert.953@btinternet.com

2nd Portishead are now the proud owners of their very own minibus.

After months of consideration by the Exec committee and Leaders it was decided that a minibus would be well used by all the Sections and also available for District Events including Ten Tors. Simon Kimberley was tasked with the job of finding one and getting a good deal.

As you can see from the photograph he has done extremely well and the parents who have already seen it are very impressed.

The minibus's first outing was to Torbay for the Dakota Troop's camp. The bus now looks splendid with the new livery on it.



H1N1 / Swine Flu

Headquarters has published guidance on the implications of "Swine Flu" when planning your activities. The advice from Headquarters includes:

"Activities should continue as normal but leaders of activities should be alert.

Any youth Member with flu-like symptoms should be returned home as soon as possible and should contact - but not visit - their GP and seek treatment."

Full advice at: www.scouts.org.uk/noticeboard_view.php?noticeboard_id=117

Another Win for Kilkenny ESU

On 12th July Kilkenny ESU took part in Portishead annual raft race, competing against other teams of their age. The explorer's made the raft by themselves with little intervention from their leaders, the raft survived the water of Portishead lake and they won their race leaving the competition riding their waves. Unfortunately they lost the finals but had a great time getting out and pushing their raft and having a water fight with the competition. Kilkenny had a thoroughly good day and look forward to taking on the competition next year, with the possibility of entering a leaders raft as well.

Josie Williams – A ESL Kilkenny



Long Ashton's first Group camp in many years

Long Ashton held a group camp on 10th / 11th July 2009. To my knowledge this is a first for the group and it went extremely well. The aim was to do a group activity where the Beavers, Cubs, and Scouts would be doing things together and growing in their confidence levels for the skills needed to go away to camp for longer than 24 hours. This was a great success focussing mainly on the campfire. All attending enjoyed grass sledging, aerial runway, obstacle course, wide games, campfire songs, roasting marshmallows, and very different food for the Friday evening meal cooked in Dutch Ovens. While there have been many enthusiastic parents to have this event take place again, some of the leaders who managed a mere 30 minutes sleep are slightly reluctant to embark on another one before next spring.

What a great opportunity this was for the younger people to meet and get to know the leaders of the sections they will be moving into in September. The leaders were amazed by how many came up to them and said, "I'm going to be in your section soon!"

We also managed to hand out some achievement badges at the camp, several cubs have achieved their Bicycle Activity Badge, two beavers received their Chief Scout Bronze Award, and one Beaver received special recognition for his hard work over the year he has been in scouting and was rewarded with a t-shirt. I believe a great time was had by all who attended and most of us walked away with minor bruises, lots of aches and pains, but also with a sense of belonging to a larger group than just our section. I also think we would all have to agree we came home having learned at least one new skill to pass onto the kids entrusted in our care and a new understanding of the abilities and humor of our leadership team. Thank you to all who came and supported this great event, but especially to Brian and Angela who joined in with us. Watch this space for next year's Long Ashton Family Camp update.

Vickie Farrell GSL.



1st Nailsea Scouts new mini bus

The 1st Nailsea Scouts mini bus is starting to show its age and the group had been considering fund raising to find a replacement. Much to their surprise in June of this year they were given a mini bus from the MYCON youth group. Due to unforeseen difficulties the MYCON youth group closed down early this year and it was trying to find a worthy youth group to pass the vehicle over to and the scout group became the lucky recipient.

Editors note – great mini bus, it drives well having driven to the Lake District and back in it recently



Sun Run Success

Thirty Explorer & Fellowship members from Gordano District attended the 27th annual Sun Run event held between 3rd & 5th July 2009 at Cleeve Hill, near Cheltenham.

The event started with a toga party on the Friday night, with a number of people dressing up in togas to get into the party mood. There was music in the Barn and on the outside stage next to the Barn there were various acts including the infamous Bikini Grinders.



On Saturday the site was filled with inflatable's, climbing towers/walls and fair ground rides which everyone made great use of. Throughout the day there were inter unit competitions including football, volleyball and netball.

Prior to the start of the Sun & Moon Run the runners/walkers enjoyed performances from a mind reader and a fantastic aerobic display. Following the acts the runners/walkers followed the sound of a bag piper to the start of the Sun/Moon run.

Six members ran/walked the Sun Run route. The Kilkenny ESU Junior Male team consisting of Oliver Purnell, Robert Wadsworth & George Rickard won their category and were 6th overall in a time of 06:03. A mixed Senior Male team consisting of Michael Daynes (Gordano DESC), Noel Jazyczewski (Backwell) and Steve Grigg (Melons ESU) finished 3rd overall in a time of 05:38. With 2 teams in the top six, Gordano District also won the fastest unit to have six people complete.

Gordano district also entered four teams for the Moon Run. The first team home was from Barracudas ESU (Daniel Whyatt, Matthew Tottle & Tom Marshall) in a time of 02:39. The second team to complete was from Kilkenny ESU (Beau Tripp, Elizabeth Tremble, Louis Johnston, Tom Mitchell & Sean Kirton) in a time of 03:11. Next home was a mixed team from Clevedon ESU & Kilkenny ESU (Matthew Ford, Samantha Digby, Joe Landers, Shaun Morrison & Jack Hudson) in a time of 03:41. The Fellowship team (Sylvia Holliman, Jane Hutchinson, Mike Viney & Angela Reynolds now Daynes) finished in a very respectable 03:45.

Everyone who attended this year's Sun Run had a fantastic time so next year let's increase the number of attendees from the district and build on this year's success and win the Sun Run!

Congratulations to Rob and Andy completing the Devizes to Westminster 125 mile Canoe Maraton

Ten Tors leader Andy Hutchings and ADC Activities Rob John successfully completed the 125-mile canoe marathon from Devizes to Westminster over the Easter weekend. Setting off just after 7 am on Saturday morning the intrepid pair overcame wind, rain and tiredness to eventually cross the finishing line at Westminster Bridge. Not only is this a mammoth canoe challenge but you have to complete 77 portages (where you have to carry the kayak anything up to 400 metres around an obstruction). However all ended well when they reached Teddington lock at 107 miles. Once at Teddington it was the River Thames and tidal waters to assist the journey and no more locks to encounter



Well done to both quite an achievement, and perhaps a challenge to lay down to our other canoeists for 2010

Iceland Roverway International Campsite

Mark Gascoigne ACSL 2nd Nailsea and 3 Explorers from MELONS ESU, Stephen Grigg, Ian Maybury and Christopher Norris joined up with 3000 16 to 25-year-olds from around Europe and USA to take part in an adventure of a lifetime.

The Scouts were there as part of the UK contingent to the international Scout camp, Roverway 2009.

Their time in Iceland was split between a four day journey taking in Iceland's spectacular natural scenery; a community project, that saw the Scouts helping to build fences and pathways, and a central camp where all 3000 Scouts joined together for fun and environmental learning.



For more info go to <http://www.scouts.org.uk/news/211/avon-scouts-rise-to-the-challenge-of-an-icelandic-adventure>

Nailsea Carnival

This year saw the largest number of entries into the Nailsea carnival parade for the last ten years with six floats and 10 walking entries. The entries included groups from infant and junior schools, youth clubs/organisations, dance and drama groups and individual entrants. The parade and fair is organised by the 1st Nailsea Scouts on behalf of the Nailsea Town Council for the community of Nailsea. It is also the scouts main fund raiser for the year and this year proved to be very successful for the group.

The parade has traditionally started from Hannah More Road but this year began from Clevedon Road car park and finished at the Millennium Park where the fair was held. The entrants chose a variety of themes ranging from cartoon characters, Mama Mia, Jailhouse Rock, under the sea, recycling, majorettes and go-karts that were used in races on the Millennium field. All costumes and supporting scenery had obviously taken a long time to prepare and was a credit to all. It was good to see that the local community fully supported the carnival making it a very successful event.



2nd Clevedon Beavers

The Beavers at 2nd Clevedon recently planned a Survival Special event. Due to the joys of our British summer the survival was held in doors. All the Beavers had a great time, learnt many skills including using a compass. The picture shows some of the parents working with the Beavers to make a special survival compass.

A special highlight of the Summer for the Beavers is receiving a signed photo from Bear Grylls.

Well done Beavers!



HQ info in case you have not seen this!

Bear Grylls officially became the Chief Scout of the United Kingdom on Saturday 11 July – cheered on by nearly 3,000 Explorer Scouts.

The official handover between Peter Duncan (Chief Scout from 2004-2009) and Bear took place at 9.30am at Gilwell 24, an adventure camp for 14-18 year olds.

'An extraordinary five years'

An explosion and purple and green pyrotechnics signalled the start of an emotionally charged handover that heralded in a new era for Scouting.

'It's been an extraordinary five years,' Peter told the crowds after accepting the thanks of Mike Gooderson, Scouting's Chairman. 'When you start off in life, you don't expect to be Chief Scout.'

He also reflected on some of the achievements during his time as Chief. 'The Movement has grown. We have more Explorers and more volunteers. But it's the little moments you remember. I was with a Group in Bristol with some disabled Scouts. Each one had someone looking after them and there was real passion and commitment there – that's what Scouting is about.' Peter also talked of the Jamboree as a highpoint, and Scouting's impact around the world.



A promise of adventure

While the rain held off, Peter called for some hush before leading Bear through the Promise. Rather than just a handshake, the two exchanged a 'bear hug' in a great show of friendship, unity and continuity.

Bear struck a highly personal note in his acceptance speech: 'My late dad said two things matter in life: follow your dreams and look after your friends. This is what I love about Scouting: ambition, dreams, and 24 hour madness! It's about doing great things, loving and enjoying the great adventures and helping others to do the same.'

Looking ahead to his time as Chief, it was clear that Bear is not afraid to speak up for young people. 'When people come up to me and say 'Young people today . . .' I say you don't see what I see. I see 3,000 people full of fun, adventure and excitement. I'm so proud to wear B-P's Silver Wolf, but more importantly, the scarf. Good luck and God speed.'

For more information please go to - <http://scouts.org.uk/news/199/bear-grylls-superproud-to-lead-uks-scouts>

Next Edition

The next edition of Gordanoos news will be issued in September. I would welcome any articles, pictures or contributions especially reports and photos from Summer Camps and activities. Please E mail them through to me on philwoolcock@blueyonder.co.uk

Phil Woolcock - District Commissioner

Home – 01275 851734 Mobile 07762 022225 or E Mail philwoolcock@blueyonder.co.uk