

Gordanoos October 2009

Welcome to the October edition of Gordanoos.

Message from DC - Phil... October has been a very special month with the commencement of the **100 years celebrations** in Clevedon. At the beginning of the month there was a chance to look at Scouting memorabilia in an event hosted by the 1st Clevedon Group. A great day, many visitors and many, many memories to remember. The Group also took the opportunity to say thank you to Tony and Janet Cryer for all their hard work within the Group and setting it back on the pathway of growth and success. I also had the privilege in presenting Tony with his 25 year service certificate and to present Terry Banks with his GSL appointment certificate. Pictures of this event are below.

UP - Last Saturday 31st October a large gathering of Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Leaders, District Team members and local Council dignitaries went to the Curzon Cinema to see the latest Disney film UP. A great morning, with the youngsters and many adults spell bound by the film. If you have not seen it, well take the chance. Many thanks to Anne Ellis for arranging the film show. Afterwards it was off to the 2nd Clevedon Scout HQ for cake and a chat!

It was great to see and attend the revival of the **Brecon Beacons challenge** this month, with older Scouts and Explorers meeting this unique challenge. More details and pictures below.

We have also seen the 2009 / 10 Ten Tors season initial meetings take place, with many older Scouts and Explorers taking up the challenge of 35, 45, and 55 mile routes. We wish them all well during the training and a successful and enjoyable Ten Tors.

100 years of Scouting Celebrations at Clevedon



GSL's Terry Banks -
1st Clevedon
and
Simon Kelly
2nd Clevedon
cut the 100th
anniversary cake



M.E.L.O.N.S. go to WINGS

Ten M.E.L.O.N.S. joined 6000 other Scouts and Guides from all over the World for a fun packed week in the Queen's back garden at Great Windsor Park. There were loads of activities that covered all the programmes in the Scouting syllabus split in to various 'zones'. These included water, craft, adventure, entertainment, science....the list goes on. Activities extended in to the late evening with performances on the main stage by local groups plus dances and music from participating countries. We were able to meet new people and make new friends and have been invited to Austria as a return gesture for helping out a group from Vienna. We had a day trip to the Castle and roamed around the town. As you can see by a couple of the photo's....it was quite exhausting! Although all had a great time.



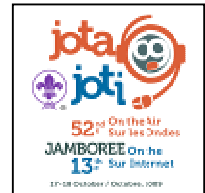
M.E.L.O.N.S. Explorer Scouts – Gain their Chief Scout Platinum Awards

Ian, Shaun & Steve have covered various activities to achieve their awards. All of them have completed the Ten Tors Expedition at 35 mile, although Steve Grigg has gone on from there to 45 mile. They are all learning to play guitars and are proficient with them. They have performed on numerous occasions in front of crowds in Nailsea or at private functions. Locally they have been active in helping out at the MS Centre with landscaping and general tidying up outside to make the area more presentable. In other activities outside of Scouting they have been involved with environmental projects that entailed clearing & coppicing and appreciation of ecosystems, restoration of ruins using dry stone walling and turf. A skill that they have recently acquired is climbing and they attend a centre in Bristol on a weekly basis to practice. They have also helped out on occasions behind the scenes at 2nd Nailsea Scout Group.
Clive AESL



2nd Clevedon – JOTA & JOTI – 2009.

Our Jamboree on the Air and Jamboree on the Internet took place at Kenn Village Hall over the weekend of 17th & 18th October. As well as the Jamboree activities 3 Scouts under the guidance of Stephen Lisney provided 2 breakfasts and a superb three course evening meal on the Saturday, enjoyed by Scouts, Leaders, GSL Simon Kelly, radio amateur Chris Stephens and special guests from the Parish Council Mr and Mrs Griffin. Naturally the 3 Scouts gained their Chef Activity Badge! Several Scouts and Young Leaders camped in the field (also a temporary 'antenna farm') at the rear of the hall.



JOTA: This year we managed to run two radios on the HF bands under our special event license call-sign 'GB8CS'. The amateur radio operators were Chris Stephens G3MGS and Michael Clark M1EPX. A total of 48 Stations were worked over the two days, some of which were JOTA stations and our Scouts exchanged greetings messages over the air - included were 3 Scouts working towards their Communicator Activity Badge. Contact highlights included HE8S (World Scout Bureau near Geneva), G100GN (Guides Centenary Station at Castle Ashby). Contacts were made with other stations in England plus Czech Republic, Bosnia, Italy, Portugal, Netherlands, Ireland, Scotland and Isle of Man.

JOTI: Young Leaders James Lewis, Nick Kelly & Matt Ford organised the operation of a Broadband Network with IRC Client, Skype, MSN & E-mail facilities. This enabled Scouts to work for their IT Activity badge and to exchange greetings using 'Scoutlink'. We hope that some lifetime world-wide contacts were made! The YL's assessed the Scouts IT capabilities and as a result 1 Scout gained IT level 2, and 3 Scouts gained IT level 3. The YL's were pleased with the outcome and look forward to a future JOTI with new faces from other Units and Troops paying a visit.

Thanks to James and Matt for help in compiling this report ☺

Mike – Scout Leader



BADGERS WATER CANOE POLO TEAM

This was for almost the entire team their first tournament and in fact the first time that they had seen a polo tournament. The newly created BCU South West Youth Canoe Polo League has 6 teams entered coming from as far away as Penzance, Aberfan and Basingstoke as well as a few from slightly closer. There is a definite split in the abilities of the teams with 3 teams having played very regularly before and mainly made up from 17 year olds and 3 teams of younger fresher players. The matches between the top level teams were very hotly contested and very entertaining. However when

these teams with their shiny fibreglass boats played against the new teams they showed a lot of care and tried to encourage the new teams to play. When the new teams played against each other they all worked hard and played their absolute best.

I would like to thank the experienced teams for their care, understanding and patience with the new teams.

Badger Bites Back went out as a team with only one person that could roll a kayak and yet played their hearts out. Their first match was against Penzance (the best team in the league). For a couple of minutes they looked lost on the water but then they started to get involved and despite the score line they had improved considerably. 10 – 0. Never mind we new this was going to happen.

Their second match was against Aberfan. With a little more confidence they started to look like a polo squad. Some good passes and a couple of shots. Unfortunately both experience and equipment let them down. The plastic boats are no match for the glass fibre of these top teams. But they came off the pitch with big smiles on their faces only a 4 – 0 defeat.

Their third match was to be the big one against another scout based team. Hamble (based near Portsmouth) were on an equal footing to the Badgers. Both teams reasonably new and both playing with similar kit. Badgers scored their first goal and then another. Confidence was high. The team had come together and were keeping the game in the Hamble end. Then Hamble came back with a goal but this only served to spur on the Badgers as they scored another 2 goals. A fantastic game for both sides. 4 - 1 win.

Match four was against Taunton Youth widely tipped to be the league leaders at the end of the season. Yet again superior equipment and experience was to prevail but there was a surprise in store as James Cooper managed to get down the left wing and score a fantastic goal. Even the Taunton team praised the goal. 4 – 1 lose.

The final match of the night for the Badgers was against Basingstoke. Basingstoke are also a new team with basic equipment and so a good match was to be played. The badgers played a fantastic game and came out 4 – 1 winners.

Over the night everyone could see a massive improvement in the team and in all the new teams. The smiles on the faces showed how much fun was had and the slow movements showed how much energy they had put in to the games. The best part for me is that they all want to come back and do it again. 16th January 2010 at Kingswood Baths.

The team: Abby Bolton, David Hill, James Cooper, Juno Rautenbach, Luke Webber, Mitchell Davis and Toby Lindley.

If anyone else is interested in playing please get in contact with me at kday@blueyonder.co.uk. There is a rumour that there is going to be a Women's League in the new year so we are looking to get a team together for it.

Badgers have a web site at www.badgers-canoe-club.weebly.com You can follow the progress of the team on this site.

Regards

Karl Day

Brecon Beacons Challenge

This event for older Scouts and Explorers took place over the weekend of the 16th / 17th October, in the Brecon Beacons National Park in the Talybont / Pontsticill area.

26 intrepid Scouts / Explorers took part in a unique challenge. Each day they had to complete 4 major challenges and walk 15 kilometres or there about. The bases saw them raft building and riding on!!, First Aid, River Crossing, Sheep Penning, Cooking, Radio Active Logs and the Adventure Trek. So it was an incident hike with a difference.

Well done to everyone who took part, they all throw themselves into the weekend and achieved a significant challenge.

Many thanks to Matt Woolcock for organising the event and to all the adults who supported the 2009 BBC. Lets look forward to BBC 2011



Triple X Members Gain their D of E Bronze

Many congratulations to Matt, Jack, Liam, Emma and Nathan who have recently completed their Duke of Edinburgh bronze awards. To complete this prestigious award the Explorers undertook service, helping in other sections, at Glenn Wood and supporting play schemes. In addition they also completed their expedition, learnt new skills and completed a physical activity. All this had to be undertaken over at least 6 months.



1st Nailsea Wednesday Troop members gain their Chief Scouts Gold Award

Congratulations to David, Juno, Luke, Abby and Mitchell in completing their Chief Scouts Award Gold recently. This intrepid group of Scouts also completed all their 9 challenge badges before moving onto Triple X Explorers. Well done.



Gordano District Scout Council Dinner
Saturday 5th December at 7.30pm for 8.00pm.
Nailsea Masonic Hall, Nailsea Park, Nailsea.

We are pleased to confirm that the District Dinner will be held again this year, a great evening, good food and a chance to relax and chat. Tickets cost £20.00 per person and should you wish to attend the dinner as a group you can be seated together in tables of eight.

The menu is for a three course meal served with drinks and finished with coffee and mints. There is also a licensed bar should you wish to use it.

Please return your completed menu choice and a cheque made payable to **Gordano District Scout Council** by 13th November 2009. The menu choice and booking form is attached with this message

Young Leaders are very welcome to attend with tickets at £12:50 per head.





All bookings to our District Secretary - Mrs Desi O'Rourke, 15 Vowles Close, Wraxall, BS48 1PP. 01275 856209

1st NAILSEA WEDNESDAY TROOP
SUMMER CAMP 2009 – Bryn Bolgoed, Brecon

Green field Camping, don't you just love it!! Hopefully ask any Wed Troop Scout and the answer will be a resounding yes. We broke from tradition and tried out a new site at Bryn Bolgoed, a farm which is home to an ex County Canoeing Adviser, Steve Rayner and his wife Christine. Both are still active Scouters and now run their local Explorer Unit and are heavily involved with Brecon Canoe Club.

I can heartily recommend the site, nestled at the foot of Pen Y fan, with glorious views and stacks of outdoor activities on the doorstep.

As usual we camped in patrols and as camp Leader I was chuffed to bits, when Christine's Dad, an ex County Commissioner complimented the Scouts on their excellent tent pitching and camping skills. Did I mention Outdoor Activities, we in Wed Troop are very fortunate, myself and Karl Day are both Level 2 Kayak Instructors, Karl also holds Archery and Shooting tickets, so guess what, the Scouts enjoyed:

-  A river trip on moving water, awesome
-  Archery, on a field range, excellent
-  Shooting, in one of the farms huge barns, stupendous
-  Shooting, on an outdoor range, frightening as the girls were much better shots.

In addition we made use of the Trewern Activity Centre, Climbing and Caving, half a day each. Trewern is owned and run by the London Borough of Tower Hamlets, so all the instructors are trained teachers, brilliant with Scouts and Explorers alike. Yes, the Scouts still did the less adventurous activities, pioneering, fire lighting, backwoods cooking, sports (competitive of course), swimming, route planning, wide games, and other badge work. We even fitted in morning inspections, including 2 full kit!!

As always it's the unplanned things that happen that stand out. Kevin Cooper, one of my ASL's is a trained air traffic controller, and besides teaching the Scouts about clouds and all things meteorological, he also took great delight in explaining to the Scouts, and Leaders, exactly what the pairs of RAF Tornados were doing flying overhead every morning. Low level, 600 ft, 350 knots apparently. It seems they use Pen Y Fan as a turning point for low level training flights, noisy though.

Similarly watching a pair of Red Kites teaching a young Red Kite the intricacies of swooping and diving in mid air was unbelievable.

The end of the week saw our older Scouts completing a 25 mile, 2 day walk towards their Chief Scouts Gold Award, they did brilliantly. The younger Scouts took part in a competitive 8 mile hike with Kevin's team just beating Karl's, although as I type, and no doubt as you read, a debate still rages about exactly where the finish line was.

But, by the time we sat around for our Camp Fire, this was temporarily forgotten as every Scout made a great Camp Fire Contribution.

All in all then a great Summer Camp with lots of good Scouting memories, new skills learned, lots of badges gained and excellent Camping and Scouting skills being shown by the Scouts.

I'd recommend the site to anyone, of course you'd need the relevant camping permits, and if you're not fortunate enough to have Leaders with activity permits, Steve and Christine Rayner are happy to oblige at very reasonable rates.

Contact Details - Bryn Bolgoed, Libanus, Brecon, Powys LD3 8EP. 01874 623399 07968 322096 Fax 01874 624085.

ChristinaRayner@brynbolgoed.co.uk

George ADC Scouts

Next Edition

The next edition of Gordanoos news will be issued in November. I would welcome any articles, pictures or contributions especially reports and photos from activities / evening. Please E mail them through to me on

philwoolcock@blueyonder.co.uk

Phil Woolcock - District Commissioner

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