



DC's Message

There are now just 3 weeks to go before the big day, no not until Santa arrives, the start of the Centenary celebrations. Do you have your join in scarf yet? Have you got your join in badges? Are you planning to use the special 2007 programme sent to you by HQ? Are you booked up for Goose? Are you planning to attend the May Camp? Are you going to the St George's Day Parade? What special things are you planning for your young people? Please let me know.

The Centenary **District** Camp plans are well under way for the weekend of 26th May and you will get more details after the holidays.

The plans for the Centenary **County** Camp, known to its friends as Goose, are well under way. Have you sent your forms back to Barbara [REDACTED] yet? You will all have received them in mid-November. Barbara really does need them back this side of Christmas! What is Goose? It is the Great Outdoor Scouting Experience and is your opportunity to join in Dorset's Centenary Jamboree.

The County St George's Day Parade is in Dorchester next year and I need all GSL's to inform me of approximate numbers attending by the end of December so that I can tell the County Commissioner. As he is planning to buy everyone afternoon tea, please make it a big number!

To help with costs next year I will be arranging some fundraisers. The first being planned is the "Winter Wonder Ride" on 18th February, supported by Kingston Maurward College. This should be good fun on a balmy spring-like day.

You will no doubt remember that when I became DC in June one of the major challenges was Training. Dorchester District had a large number of Leaders who, for whatever reason, had not completed their training. What a change six months can make! A very big THANK YOU to everyone, GSL's, Section Leaders, Training Advisers, and you for your efforts. With luck, by 31st December all outstanding training will have been completed - a massive achievement and one envied by other Districts, not only in the County but nationally as well! Well done!

Finally to Scutty, have a great Scout Post. It gets bigger and better every year and is a fantastic fundraiser. However, it needs your support, so please make sure that every card that can possibly be delivered by Scout Post is, even your neighbours. Get them out early and it's a great reminder to everyone else to use it too.

Finally, finally, to everyone, have a great Christmas, a fantastic New Year, eat too much, drink too much (unless you're driving), spend too much on gifts and then join everyone on making 2007 the best Scouting year ever! *Merry Christmas*

Mike Marsh, DC

A Cub Camp Fire

On a windy and damp evening in November the District's Cub Scouts were invited to attend a camp fire organised by the Explorer Scouts at Rabbits Copse, off the Old Sherborne Road. Charminster and Milborne St Andrew accepted the invitation and on arrival were guided down a path well lit by flickering lights. In a clearing we were welcomed to the camp fire circle by the Explorer Scouts who led the Cubs and their Leaders in rousing camp fire songs. This was followed by hot-dogs and hot and cold drinks. The evening ended with sparklers and then by Kum Bah Yah. Concluding her report, Ruth [REDACTED], Charminster GSL, thanks the Leaders and Explorer Scouts for their hard work in arranging a lovely evening enjoyed by everyone present.

Beavers see Stars

65 Beavers from six colonies enjoyed an early Christmas treat at this year's unusual Beaver celebration held at Charminster School on Sunday 26th November. Joined by their Leaders they had 'stars in their eyes' when they took an amazing journey across the Milky Way, courtesy of Bob Mizon and his mobile planetarium.

Bob's enthusiasm for the universe was infectious as he zoomed around the stars studying the constellations, retelling stories from Roman and ancient American Indian times about how they believed constellations were created. Everyone excitedly touched a real piece of rock from space when Bob produced a small meteorite and were fascinated by his journey around the planets of our solar system discovering just how tiny and unique our 'blue planet' earth really is.

In this report Mike Marsh, DC, recalls how 37 years ago he sat on the edge of his seat watching Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin become the first men to walk on the moon. Bob showed a number of photographs from that time, including the iconic one that shows Neil, Buzz and the lunar landing module Eagle in the same picture. Can you remember who took it, and how, asks Mike ?

Bob then set the ultimate 'Beaver Challenge'. He believed that someone alive today would walk on Mars and he set a small spark alight in the minds of the young people present by asking if it would be one of them! Mike says how about it, Beavers, if two American Scouts could be the first to walk on the moon, why can't a Beaver from Dorchester walk on Mars ? >>>

Mike concludes by thanking ADC Carol [REDACTED] for organising this great experience, and thanking the Beavers for allowing him to join them – a real treat. He wonders who needs 'satnav' now that we know how to find our way using the pole star ?

Poland 2006 (2)

As promised, we continue with the final instalment of the report by Ian [REDACTED], District Explorer Scout Commissioner, on the Explorer Scouts exchange visit to Poland. He says "we then had a very interesting visit to Wawel Castle and Cathedral, also taking in the lair of the Wawel Dragon, which spectacularly blew fire for the tourists.

In the evening we visited the old Jewish ghetto area and went into a synagogue to see films about the annihilation of the Jewish people. Later in the visit we went to Auschwitz and saw where many nationalities met their deaths. I think the most overawing fact for the Explorers was the sheer size of Auschwitz II, unless you have been there it is unimaginable.

Once again we donned our hiking boots and ventured into the Tatra Mountains. We had a very interesting hill walk which was not to everyone's taste as surprisingly we cut through the mountain by a series of caves.

In the final few days it was back to the home town of the "Angels", Piekary Slaskie, to do a presentation in the library and visit their war memorial and their Founder's graves. This was touching as the three Founders were hanged during the German occupation because many Scouts were also underground resistance workers. Soon it was time to say good-bye and we returned with memories for years to come", concludes Ian.

Many thanks to Ian, and all his helpers, for the lengthy preparations that made such a worth-while visit possible – no mean feat, and a life-time experience for the 19 youngsters who went.

District Diary

The District Diary for the whole year is normally published with this Bulletin. However, it will be making a late appearance because the DC asked everyone for dates to be included, but no one replied. He says this means one of three things - either you don't yet know, or haven't planned anything, or others haven't passed on the information.

The Diary cannot be produced without your help, so please let the DC have an update one way or the other before Christmas; it will be published shortly afterwards

Photographs

The DC asked everyone to send him digital "action" pictures to be included in some publicity for 2007. He needs lots more to make it worthwhile. Anything you have please forward to him at mikeandpammarsh@aol.com

District Diary

DEC	
5-19	Scout Christmas Post
15	County Fellowship 'Peace Light' Service, Christchurch Priory, 6.30 pm.
21 - 2	School Christmas Holidays start
JAN	
6	District Bingo, Magistrates Room, Corn Exchange, Dorchester, 2.45 pm.
10	District Executive Committee Meeting
FEB	
17	Purbeck Big Band Concert, Corn Exchange, Dorchester, 7.45 pm
19 - 23	School Half-term Holiday

Purbeck Big Band Concert

For the fifth year running this very popular band is returning to play for a District fund-raising event at the Dorchester Corn Exchange on Saturday evening, 17th February. The tickets remain at £6.50 and will be available from 5th January at the Tourist Information Centre, Dorchester or by phoning / e-mailing the District Secretary who will send them by post. New this year is the opportunity to buy tickets from 5th December to give as a Christmas present to friends who are Big Band fans. Available only from the Secretary on 01305 262158 for £1 extra, these tickets come with a colourful Christmas card and the seats will be reserved in the middle of the hall. So, what about it ? A most enjoyable evening out and all in a good cause!

New Appointments

Malcolm (Mal) [REDACTED] has recently moved to the District from Kent with 16 years warranted Scouting experience behind him as a Scout Leader in Faversham. He is now helping Jim [REDACTED] with the growing Scout Troop in the Milborne St Andrew Group. Welcome to the District.

Nicholas (Nick) [REDACTED] joins the team of District Explorer Scout Leaders now that he has left the Navy, He comes from a Scouting family so was involved at an early age. He has been a Leader in Wiltshire and in South Wales. Nick has a variety of practical skills and connections. Welcome to the Unit.

Emma [REDACTED] has given up as Treasurer of Piddle & Cerne Valleys Group to go into uniform as Assistant Beaver Scout Leader to help Jenny [REDACTED] with her Colony. Thanks, Emma, for becoming more involved.

District Directory Up-date

District

Chairman *add* Steve [REDACTED]

Milborne St Andrew Group

SL *add* Malcolm [REDACTED]

Piddle & Cerne Valleys Group

ABSL *add* Mrs Emma [REDACTED]

Explorer Scout Unit

ESL *add* Nicholas [REDACTED]

The next Bulletin will be published on 1st February