



DORCHESTER DISTRICT

BULLETIN



June 2007

www.dorchesterdistrictscouts.org.uk

No. 77

DC's Message

A year has passed since my first report, so how have we fared?

The change has been challenging and exciting. I challenged those who had not yet completed their training to do so and we succeeded. I wanted us to grow Scouting in the District and we missed, slightly, but we still have 6 months left of this year to make a difference to that.

*The opportunity to hold a Centenary District Camp with (almost) all the District attending was too good to miss - it was great! We all enjoyed it. My thanks to the organising team of Brian, Sally, Dave and Dave; also to Chris and Nick for the pig. How many of us were woken at 0500 on Sunday morning by Chris hammering a pioneering pole up the pig's **** to make it fit because, he said, if he shaved down the pole it might weaken it? Not only do the organisers need thanks, however. Thanks go to Oliver for making it possible, to farmer Frank for being so understanding and helpful and to many others behind the scenes.*

I was very excited by the way the young people were 'almost' oblivious to the inclement weather, with Leaders and young people working together irrespective of the scarf they wear, and with Explorers and their Leaders who helped out wherever they were needed and still had fun, and with the Fellowship who did so much to share their skills with others, and didn't Network have fun when they visited and gave us a glimpse into their world - many of our Explorers and younger Leaders are now looking to join them. All our visitors were full of praise for a camp held in the true spirit of Scouting, so thanks guys!

So get out your diaries and pencil in the late May bank holiday weekend 2009, as we will be doing it all again to celebrate 100 years of Dorchester District! No excuse then for not knowing early enough! Our President has offered an even better site than Langford Valley if such a thing exists! How exciting an opportunity is that!! What will Chris cook next time?

Have you taken every opportunity to get some PR to promote Scouting, thus finding new Leaders, which in turn will bring in more young people? Only you can decide. I do know Pam worked her socks off to get the coverage for St George's Day and Camp. She felt let down by the Echo, but we received good coverage in other papers such as the Western Gazette, and the Parade was covered in every area except Bournemouth! Cubs and Explorers are taking

part in the Dorchester Carnival and will be handing out recruiting 'flyers', so what are you going to do?

We still have to come to terms with the District Review. Our Chairman, Steve, is keen to look at developing ways for the District Exec to be more proactive for Groups, and I know that our President, Oliver, is keen to help with this as well.

So 2007 is definitely not a destination and there are still many opportunities to grab in the rest of this year, Goose being just one (a modern alternative to district camp). What else do you want to happen in 2007? Please let me know. One thing that will be happening is a presentation evening in October where I want to make a big celebration, District-wide, of all Beaver, Cub, Scout and Explorer Chief Scout Awards that the young people are working towards and other Awards to adults and young people as appropriate.

If we all work together we can make 2008 even more exciting and 2009 will be a tremendous year to celebrate the District Centenary.

Mike Marsh, DC

Centenary Camp

Some 165 people were at the District's Camp over the weekend 26th – 28th May to celebrate the Movement's Centenary, together with an estimated 500,00 Scouts camping nationwide at that time. All Sections attended, from the youngest Beaver to the oldest Fellowship member!

The County Commissioner, James Morton, and the Scout Association's Chief Commissioner, Wayne Bulpitt, performed the first camp flag break on Saturday, and with the County President, Michael Fulford –Dobson, toured the camp and had lunch.

After a sunny Saturday the weather went into a deep depression, but the spirits of the campers certainly did not. Outdoor activities, included archery, water slide, string trail, orienteering, cooking twists and marshmallows, tug of war and caterpillar track races. Pursuits under canvas were crafts, badge making, knots and lashing, and a quiz (and, for when it rained, bingo!). The Explorer Scouts led impromptu football and volleyball games much enjoyed by the Scouts and Cubs.

A large pig was roasted on a spit, whilst a jointed deer was cooked in an underground 'oven' with the know-how of Explorer Scout Leader Chris [REDACTED], aided by Explorer Scouts and other Leaders who built up the fires. Pork and venison were on the menu on Sunday evening.

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District Diary

JUNE

16 Dorchester Carnival.
29 District Leaders Meeting.

JULY

7 District Bingo, Magistrates Room, Corn Exchange, Dorchester, 2.45 pm.
16 – 17 Cub and Beaver Fun Days, Gilwell.
23 *School Summer Holidays begin*
25 District Executive Committee Meeting.
27 Opening of 21st World Jamboree, Hylands Park, Essex.
28 Leaders set up GOOSE Centenary Camp, County Campsite, Buddens.
29 Start of County GOOSE Centenary Camp for Scouts and Explorers.
31 Start of County GOOSE Centenary Camp for Cubs & District Beaver Sleepover.

Details from District Team

One of the highlights was the spontaneous enjoyment of the camp at the camp fire, when the Leaders and young people came together to entertain one another with some funny goings-on, camp fire songs being cheerfully led by Debbie and Sally. The opportunity was taken by the DC to thank our past District President, Thomas Pope, for his 28 years of support, by presenting him with an engraved glass paper weight and a glass vase for his wife Anna. Also present was his nephew, Oliver Pope, our new President, whose three children were delighted to have taken part in some of the camp activities, accompanied by his wife Katie.

This was also a time to celebrate the 87th birthday of Eileen [REDACTED] who had enthralled young campers with her story-telling earlier. She cut the large iced Centenary Celebration cake which everyone shared.

On Sunday morning Scouts Own was led by Beth [REDACTED].

Central Dorchester Scout Leader, Brian [REDACTED], the stalwart Campmaster, closed the Camp on Monday afternoon, with thanks to all the Groups for coming and making the Centenary event such a success in spite of some atrocious weather. The behaviour of the youngsters in such conditions was exemplary, playing hard and sleeping the nights through without a whimper. He was pleased that we had been able to celebrate the centenary of this great Movement in such a way. What a memorable occasion for all who were there.

County St George's Day

On Sunday 22nd April some 4,500 uniformed youngsters and their Leaders came from all corners of the County by car, coach and special trains to assemble at Charles Street to join in the largest parade through Dorchester's streets for decades. As hosts Dorchester Explorer Scouts had the privilege of forming the Colour Party leading the half-mile long parade with banners held high and bands playing.

Everyone was welcomed at Maumbury Rings by the County Chaplin, Rev Robin Nash, who conducted the Service, saying that this was a once in a lifetime occasion. The celebration was led by the Bishop of Sherborne, the Rt Rev Tim Thornton, who said *"it is not unusual for people today to reach their 100th birthday but generally they know they are reaching the end of their lives. However, with Scouts it is definitely 100 not out. This has been just the first 100 years of Scouting as there is no sign that it is at the end of its life and the Movement continues to grow in size"*. He reminded the young people that their Leaders were all volunteers and he led the youngsters in giving them three cheers. The County Commissioner led the renewal of the Scout Promise.

The celebrations concluded with a picnic tea provided for all by the County and some party fun with the Bournemouth Carnival Band.

Waterman Award

This year's Waterman Award for "exceptional service in the true meaning of Scouting during the past year" was presented at the District AGM by the DC to Ian [REDACTED]. As District Explorer Scout Commissioner, Ian had excelled during the year on two counts. Last summer he took 20 Explorer Scouts on a three week visit to Poland, involving lengthy negotiations and preparations. Then recently he has received an accolade from the Assessor of Duke of Edinburgh Awards who wrote to the County Commissioner praising Ian for his excellent preparation of the group of Explorer Scouts she had the great pleasure to assess. A credit to the District, indeed.

Centenary Events caught on Camera

Those who attended the District AGM had the pleasure of seeing the video screening of photographs taken by several Leaders of St George's Day, Parade, Fellowship Founders Day Service on Brownsea and the recent Centenary Camp which had been very ably compiled by Explorer Scout James [REDACTED] (14). James has offered to produce copies of the disc in return for a contribution to the fund he is raising to go on a Scout Project to Uganda next year. His contact is jane.mills5@blinternet.com Tel 01258 837985.

End2End

It is not too late to sponsor our three intrepid cyclists, Barry Thomas, Chris Willitts and Bob Hewish, who by now are reaching the end of their epic 1070 journey from Lands End to John 'o Groats. A donation to their chosen charities, including Scouting, can be made by contacting baz.sixty@blinternet.com Tel 01305 852314. They've earned it!

Mayor's Scout

Jonathan [REDACTED], formerly of Central Dorchester Group, now an Explorer Scout, has taken over from William [REDACTED] as Mayor's Scout for the year.

Next Bulletin will be issued in mid-August with new Directory, 2007. Please advise of new e-mail addresses.