

Staffordshire Matters

'Lets Natter about what really Matters '

Welcome again to Staffordshire Matters. This is the first of what we hope will become a useful source of information across our County. However in order to make this newsheet fit your needs we need information and news of what is going on in Scouting in your area.

It is a fact that our numbers are dropping right across the County and we need to be able to communicate with each other in order to spread the word and promote Scouting in Staffordshire. Our County Commissioner has set a target of 10,000 members in five years and this is something that can be achieved. There are lots of young people out there who would benefit from the fun and activities that Scouting brings.

So lets Shout about Scouting.

The new Annual review leaflet launched at the recent Annual General Meeting in Stafford will serve a dual purpose. It is bright and exciting and will appeal to young people. The idea is to interest those youngsters who are not yet Scouts about what Scouting has to offer. Each District will be given a supply of these leaflets to assist with local recruitment

So lets make plans for our Centenary

So what about your plans for 2007. Our centenary year will be a wonderful opportunity to show just how Scouting plays a full life in modern day society. Each District will be able to show how they are part of the community and this will be an ideal way of promoting and recruiting, so what are you doing in your area ? Do not miss this once in a lifetime opportunity. Email your ideas for your group and District so we can pull together a programme of activities. (Email to Johnbarker77@hotmail.com).

So lets show that Scouting is alive and well

Stafford District recently held a promotional day in the town square on a busy Saturday. They put on a display of Scouting Activities and photographs and even received a visit from the Town Mayor. As a result of this they received a lot of attention and recruited over 30 more young people and three adults into our movement.

So if they can do it so can your District, why not plan something for your town or village just to show we are still around.

Next year the County will be putting on a display stand at the County Show on May 31st and 1st June. Over 60,000 people attended this years show and it will be a good place to show off Scouting at its best.

So taking part in activities in your area is a good idea and groups should consider this as part of their drive to increase numbers.

What`s New at Kibblestone ?

There are changes afoot at Kibblestone. The Camp Manager for the past 11 years decided to move on and the Division and Christine. They are off on a round the world and good luck to you both.

The new Camp Manager will be Steve. Assistant Camp Manager for many years will be taking over soon and Kelly will be in the shop. They have lots of new ideas to promote more campers. Eddy Thomas the Shop Manager retire and let Kelly get on with the business however we will still be seeing Eddy help out from time to time.

There are some leaders in the County who only for groups in the Stoke on Trent area they could`nt be more wrong, the site is visited by Scouts from all over the world and has as well as our County site in Staffordshire.

The Camp Operations Team Chairman details of some of the activities at the Camp

The ever popular Activity Camps continue time there is to be a week long camp in ideas and activities for all Scouts. The camps are from the 12th to the 19th of August 2006 .

Other weekend activity camps will be run

7th to the 9th April 2006

6th to the 8th October 2006

Remember its never too early to apply for Troop so contact the Camp on 01785-8 can help in any way contact Bob Dudley

County Archers hit the spot.

On July 3rd this year the County held its Competition at Kibblestone International Melvyn Howes and Melvyn Bridgwood took from across the County.

Archery is becoming a very popular event repeat the competition next year on the

Moorlands Mini Jamboree hits the spot.

Moorlands District have just run their first Mini Jamboree, the idea was to have a practice event before their main event in 2007. The weekend based at Consall Scout Camp pulled in over 100 of their members and they enjoyed a weekend of fun activities. District Commissioner Graham Alcock was pleased and said that the event has given them more ideas for the main 2007 Jamboree weekend in the Moorlands District. Consall Scout Camp has undergone some major improvements this year with a new approach road, a new camping area together with Toilet and Indoor facilities. For more information on the Camp please Contact Graham Alcock on 01538-383525.

Lets Activate the Activities.

Exciting outdoor activities have always been a popular part of Scouting. Our young people need to have the stimulation of Hiking, Mountaineering, Sailing, Caving and Camping. However not every Leader has the right skills to provide these activities in their programmes.

So its up to enthusiasm of our County Activities Team under the leadership of Dave Johnson the Assistant County Commissioner for Activities to provide courses and the correct training for others to take part in.

They are now busy sorting out a programme for 2006 and this news sheet will bring you all of the details when they are ready. So watch out for courses in the following skills.

Young Sailors Stages 1 & 2

Young Sailors Stage 3

Powerboat Safety Courses

Seamanship Skills Courses

Find out more by emailing Jane Kent on Jane.kent2@btinternet.com or if you can help in any way contact Dave Johnson at djohnson.lostthepilot@vodaphone.net

Lets Climb every Mountain.

Mountain Climbing together with Hill and Moorland walking has always been popular. The County Activities Team will be presenting a programme of training and Courses for Leaders so they can reach the correct activity standards throughout 2006. This news sheet will bring you the details as soon as they are available. Meanwhile if you think you can help then why not contact Peter Nottingham at pete.nottingham@ntlworld.com for more advice and assistance.

Polishing up their skills

Knock out Heats 6th and 7th May 2006

County Finals 2nd July 2006

Put these dates in your diary and watch to register and take part. For information 01785-813407.

Like to help Scouting but have`nt got

Then the Scout Fellowship is for you. O Commissioner for the Scout Fellowship you in touch with a Fellowship Group ne Remember the Fellowship are groups o give a lot of time or become a leader, bi Scouting in some way. They can help w Events, provide skills training, help with be a good friend to Scouting. For more on 01543-300371 or at adrian.robinson:

This news sheet will publish details of a County so please send in your details to johnbarker77@hotmail.com.

Watch out for Kibblestone Fellowship O 14th 2006 and their annual Carol Servic 2006

Pauline takes the helm.

Following the retirement of Mike Byrne the **Tamworth District**, Pauline Peace new DC.

Mike has been the District Commissioner seven years and has now taken a well

Pauline has been a member of the Dist having been Assistant District Commiss 1992.

Good Luck Pauline in your new role.

Eileen takes on another role

The County Commissioner has recently Deputy District Commissioner of **Stone** working alongside the DC Dave Plant to develop and grow.

iNewcastle District shows the way

Throughout the Autumn **Newcastle Dis** more adults and young people into Sco District used the Mobile Display Unit fro promote Scouting at the Newcastle Fes

Over the weekend of the 7th to the 9th October 20 leaders from all over the County attended a skills course at Rangemore Camp Site near Burton-upon-Trent.

The course was run by the County Training Team and enabled the leaders to complete the Modules 16, 17 and 18 of their training.

Over the weekend they took part in activities, tried their hand at backwoods cooking, knotting, camping and pioneering and many other basic Scouting Skills.

They all agreed the weekend was a great success and the County Training Team will be putting on two further weekends in 2006. The dates are as follows.

June 9th -11th at Kibblestone

October 13th - 15th at Rangemore

So if you need to complete these three modules and fancy a fun weekend where you will learn a lot, why not contact us through the Team co-ordinator Sharon Jeffries at sharon_milfordHQ@hotmail.co.uk

Cannock Explorers go French

This summer a group of nine Explorer Scouts from **Cannock District** went on an expedition to Brittany in Northern France. This enabled them to qualify for their Explorer Belt awards.

Whilst they were in France they helped local people with various projects and sent their District Commissioner Malcolm Farmer postcards written in French. They visited the local Police Station, eat local food including snails and oysters and had a really good time.

When they came home they organised a presentation of the highlights of their trip to both their Parents and also to the District Executive.

Well done Cannock Explorers what a way to show just how good Scouting can be.

One visitor to the unit was a young boy but not yet old enough to join. Now he's along with five of his friends and relatives.

Newcastle will be holding a District Conference to discuss and formulate plans to recruit more.

They are working hard to raise the profile of Scouting with activities and fun days aimed at attracting people and their parents. Watch out for 'Capers' at the Mitchell Memorial Theatre on the 22nd April 2006 so for more information call 611091 why not go along and enjoy yourself.

Potteries North head towards their first

Potteries North District formed this year between Potteries Central and Tunstall towards its first Birthday.

District Commissioner Peter Whitehouse says two Districts have now formed into one for the future for Scouting at the top of our County.

They are planning a District Christmas and first Birthday celebrations in February 2006.