

Lets all look forward.

Well here we are again at the start of another year. We have put Christmas and the New Year celebrations behind us and we must all now look forward to the coming Scouting year.

Wow what a year it is going to be with the Cub Section celebrating its 90th Birthday and 2007 getting nearer and nearer. Why not start your own Newsletter and tell everyone what is going on in your Group or District. We have received a super Newsletter from the 1st Shenstone Group in Lichfield District that is packed with details of their activities, if you would like to see it contact laurenjaynecross@hotmail.com for more details. Well done 1st Shenstone keep up the good work.

Steve takes on a new role.

Congratulations to Steve Broadhurst as he has been appointed the new District Commissioner for Newcastle District. Steve is taking over from Greta Bloor who has successfully lead the District for many years and is now going to take a well earned break. Steve who was the Deputy District Commissioner will be ably assisted by Kevin Downward who has taken on the role of Deputy DC, Good Luck to the New Team.

Wheaton Aston Scouts rise again.

Good news in Stafford District, the Wheaton Aston Scout Group has reformed this time as Sea Scouts. Young people in and around their village can again take part in many Scouting activities.

New Leaders Steven Brown, Gary Audis, Robert Mole together with Jennifer Brown and Nichola Mole have got the new troop off to a good start.

This shows that a Group can make a new start provided there are leaders willing to take on these roles. We see too many groups closing through lack of support so congratulations Wheaton Aston and we wish you a long and successful voyage

High and Wide celebrates in style.

February saw a big celebration for the cast and producers of the High and Wide Gang Show in Three Towns District. This year saw the 30th production of the show and they decided to do things in style with a Gala night on the Friday with some of the cast arriving in a stretch limo. It was an exciting night for all with champagne served to everybody present. Well done Three Towns and congratulations to Nick Moss and his team for putting on such an excellent show.

Why not send in details of your show and get a review in Staffordshire Matters

Kibblestone News

The new team at Kibblestone is finally in place following the appointment of Michael (Chalky) White as Assistant Camp Manager and Gary Watts as Campsite Assistant. They will be working alongside Steve Fern the Camp Manager to run the camp in the future. They have lots of good ideas and the programme for this year looks very exciting.

The Kibblestone Activity Camps are now a regular part of the programme each year and in 2006 they will hold two week-end camps and for the first time ever a week long activity camp in the Summer. The dates are :-

- 8th—9th April and the 7th—8th October each camp will cost £30 person including the food. Places are going fast so book now to get your troop involved.
- 12th—19th August costing £99 per person for a whole week including the activities. So book now.

Adults are needed to help so if you are interested in a fun weekend or a week long camp contact Steve on 01782-813407.

The Cub Lair has now been refurbished and is again back in action. Built many years ago this wonderful building has given young people an opportunity to enjoy camping and weekends away and many thousand of youngsters have enjoyed its facilities. Now it is better than ever with all new toilets and kitchen facilities, so now is the time to book a week-end, contact the Camp office for more details.

Kibblestone Open Day 14th May 2006.

Don't forget this year the Camp Open Day will be held on Sunday May 14th 2006 from 12.00 noon onwards. There will be lots to do and see for old and young alike including plant stalls, tombola, raffles, games, hog roast and so much more.

So why not come along and bring your Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers and support the Open day..

International Friendship Camp 2008

The IFC Committee tell us that over 200 applications have been received so far for the 2008 camp. There is interest from all over the world for the next event. However they would like to get more Groups and Troops from Staffordshire involved and would welcome enquiries from all over the County, so now is your chance to be part of this exciting event

Many of our groups have strong links with Scouts from overseas and this proves the strength of Scouting is in its international friendship partnerships, so come on Staffordshire do your best to keep up this tradition.

St Gregory's are Camping in Style

St Gregory's Scout Group in Three Towns District have just been awarded a grant from the Local Network Fund to renew their camping equipment after storm damage last year. This new equipment including tents and stoves will get them going this year and they are already hard at work making plans for their group camps.

The local network fund is available to youth groups for projects such as equipment and buildings and contact should be made through your local CVS office. Some groups have applied for grants and St Gregory's have shown that the fund is there for everyone to use, so get cracking and apply now, but remember you must have a worthwhile project before applying

Funds worth watching out for

Here are two funding ideas worth thinking about.

- **The National Trust** is keen to work with local groups for mutual advantage giving educational opportunities to arts, youth or environmental groups. Projects or events may in turn attract funding. email to learning@nationaltrust.org.uk
- **The Co-op** If your group is based in an area in which the Co-op trades there are a number of ways, they can help with raffle prizes and publicising your group within stores. They will also give awards from £100—£5000 for worthy projects so why not contact them on www.co-op.co.uk/communitydividend/

Book These Dates Now

Special events to celebrate the Jubilee of Scouting in our County. Make sure they are in your diary so that you will not be left out.

22/23rd September 2007 will be the dates of a Special Jubilee Leaders only weekend based at Kibblestone Camp. This will be an opportunity to for all leaders and supporters over the age of 18 to gather together to enjoy a fun packed weekend, watch out for more details, but book the date now.

25th November 2007 The County will be holding a service to celebrate 100 years of Scouting in Lichfield Cathedral.. 3.30pm, more details to be published later.

Can you help out. ?

The training team needs some help with their forthcoming skills weekend on the 9/10/11th June 2006 at Kibblestone. They need a small cooking team to handle the catering and experienced leaders who can help as skills instructors. If you can give some or all of the weekend contact me asap Johnbarker77@hotmail.com or ring 01785-254164 This will be a fun weekend and a worthwhile opportunity to pass on your skills to new leaders.

Have you got news for Staffordshire Matters ? If so contact us with the details, remember the more we communicate the stronger we will become

Good news from your Activities Team

The Activities team are hard at work drawing up a full programme of activities and activity training for the coming year. Their aim is to provide a day on the water and a day in the hills for each of our members. This will be quite a challenge and they will need the support of all of us to achieve it.

You will be pleased to hear that they have relocated the sailing and powerboat training centre to Chasewater with the kind support of the Outdoor Education Centre and Staffordshire Education Authority. This should prove to be a much better venue. Keith Sunderland has also been working hard to establish a new venue for canoeing at Trentham Lake in partnership with the British Canoe Union coach already based there.

All this will enable the team to provide better facilities for our young people and watch out for more news soon

2007 updates

Staffordshire has two places at the Patrol Leaders camp on Brownsea Island on the 26th—28th July 2007. A selection process will be held later in the year, for more details why not ask your ADC Scouts.

Headquarters are looking to recruit 40 people aged between 12 and 18 in July/August 2007 to take part in a camp recreating Baden Powells original camp. For more information why not ask your ADC Scouts or District Explorer Scout Leader.

Cannock announce jubilee plans

News just in about Cannock District's plans for their 2007 Jubilee Camp. They will be camping at Beaudesert Scout Camp over the weekend of the 25th—28th May 2007. The camp will be packed with activities and will have a World theme.

Let us know about your District plans and we will publish them.

Newcastle District raise funds for Hospital

Congratulations to Newcastle District who raised over £425 for the Childrens Ward at the Stoke on Trent City Hospital before Christmas. They raised the money by running a car park for the Sunday Markets in Hanley. Thanks go to Rick Minshull and Ron Webb who thought up the idea and to all of the leaders who went along to help.

New Safety Card to be Launched

Watch out soon for the launch of a new Safety card for all Leaders. It will be of a handy size and promote the new safety code adopted by the County Executive. Remember safety at all times is very important and should be our first priority.

The card will be issued to all existing leaders and given to new leaders as they join.