

# SW Notts Explorer Scouts News



This newsletter attempts to bring you up to date with the recent activities and future plans of the Explorer Scouts of SW Notts District. It will be sent out to all GSLs/Group Contacts and SLs as listed in the District Directory; please pass it on to anybody else who might be interested.

Richard Pratt, District Advisor

## ***DISTRICT EVENTS***

The main activity at District level has been Duke of Edinburgh Award expedition training; at least one expedition has now taken place. Training for next year's expeditions will take place in Unit activities and an additional one evening a month.

A team from Pursuit and Pioneer ESUs was entered for the well-organised *Big Game Live* County competition, in which Explorers have to use public transport to visit as many selected local sites as possible in a fixed time. Through good team work our team came 6<sup>th</sup> in the county. For photos see <https://picasaweb.google.com/102945714495849575053/6thPursuitPioneer6360>.

Plans are now being made for a Winter Camp, either the national event at Gilwell as last year, or maybe nearer home.

## ***INTERNATIONAL***

SW Notts was represented at the World Jamboree in Sweden by Simon Brown, Andy Coe, Zoe Wesson and Max Emmett., while another member of the British contingent, Daniel Reeves from Manchester, has just moved into the District. Zoe, from Tornado Unit, said "The Jamboree is the best thing I have ever done! It really was an amazing thing to be part of. I have met people from all over the world that I wouldn't have ordinarily have met, I've eaten foods I didn't even know existed and I've partied with 38,000 people. It was so cool." The County website gives more information about the Jamboree.

The proposed County trip to Russia has been cancelled; although SW Notts had Explorers interested, there were insufficient numbers from elsewhere.

Preparations are now under way for a possible District trip to Portugal in August 2012. As many of you know, in 2010 Pioneiros (Explorer-age Scouts) of Agrupamento 894 from Montemor-o-Novo

visited Nottingham. They have now invited SW Notts Explorers to attend Acampamento Nacional 2012 (ACANAC XXII) in central Portugal. The journey out there will involve plane, train and road to the small town of Idanha-a-Nova near the Spanish border. It is also proposed to stay in Portugal for a few days afterwards; plans for this period will be made in conjunction with the Explorers who sign up. For background information see <http://sites.google.com/site/pioneiros894/>, <http://acanac2012.org/>, search for ACANAC on the web to find various articles and YouTube clips about previous camps, or read the separate attachment.

**It is important that any Scouts planning to transfer to Explorers before next summer get the opportunity to join this trip. All Troops should have had a visit from a Leader from the Explorer section and affected Scouts should have been given an application form. Please remind them that if they are interested their names must be sent to Chris Coats by October 21<sup>st</sup>, but only existing Explorers have to pay the deposit at this stage. If your Troop has not been visited, please inform Chris Coats immediately!**

Tornado ESU are exploring the idea of attending the Essex Jamboree. Discovery may join 2<sup>nd</sup> Beeston in camp on Guernsey.

Finally, if you visit <http://internacional.cne-escutismo.pt/ActEscutistasInternacionais/ExemplosdeAEIs/tabid/2367/Default.aspx>, the international page for Portuguese Scouting, and look at the section *Outros* (Others), you will see it is illustrated by a picture of our DESC with Pioneiros on the Trent!

## ***UNIT NEWS***

### **TORNADO**

Tornado have been re-visiting some of B-P's ideas on Scouting, having been pioneering at Trent Lock and at Bramcote Woods, and are intending to have a "back to basics" camp in October. (Photographs will be sent out in a separate email.) The Police Dog-Handling Unit will be giving a demonstration later in the term.

### **PIONEER**

Pioneer also did some pioneering (appropriately enough), though in miniature form, building catapults. They have had a rather gory time practising first aid with realistic wound makeup (again, photos in a separate email). More light-hearted evenings have included photography and bowling. Plans for this term include a night-hike and mince-pie making.

### **MAGELLAN**

Have been building rockets, had a BBQ at Wollaton Park, and attended Summer Camp with 6<sup>th</sup> Beeston.

## ***INTERNET PRESENCE***

Tornado Explorers have a Facebook “group” where photos and information are available to the members. The District Explorer website is found at <http://www.swnotts-scouts.org.uk/explorers/>.

## ***EXPLORER ROADSHOW***

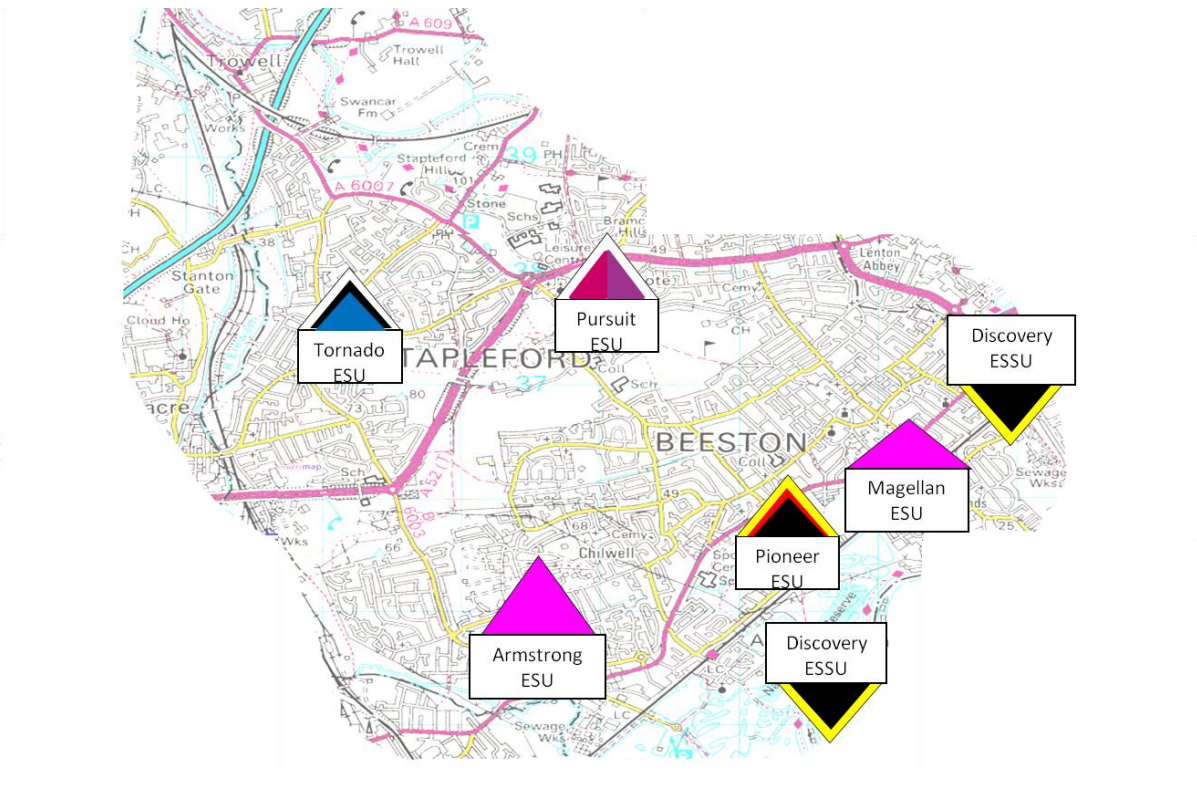
A team of Explorers is ready to come to your Troop to talk about Explorer Scouting. The “Roadshow” consists of a video and a PowerPoint presentation and covers Young Leaders as well. To make a booking contact please contact Richard Pratt (District Advisor), [richard.pratt83@ntlworld.com](mailto:richard.pratt83@ntlworld.com) or tel: 0115 9436965.

## ***MEETING TIMES AND PLACES***

Although of necessity ESUs meet at Group HQs, a Scout may choose to attend any of the Units; there are no restrictions. Scouts may choose a Unit based on its programme, whether they know the existing members, its meeting night or the ease of getting there. (Pioneer and Magellan are served by evening buses on the Indigo and 36 routes, and Tornado by Rainbow 4.) Discovery is the District Water Activities ESU. If Scouts wish to start linking, please make sure that they contact the ESL first to confirm that the Unit is meeting at its regular place and that the meeting will suit a newcomer. It is perfectly acceptable to visit more than one Unit before they make up their minds.

Day	Name	Place	Start	Finish
Monday	Pioneer	Christ Church Hall, Chilwell	20:00	21:30
	Tornado	1 <sup>st</sup> Stapleford HQ	20:00	21:30
Wednesday	Pursuit	2 <sup>nd</sup> Bramcote HQ	19:30	21:00
	Armstrong	1 <sup>st</sup> Chilwell Depot HQ	19:30	21:00
Thursday	Magellan	6 <sup>th</sup> Beeston HQ	20:00	22:00
	Discovery	(Winter) 2 <sup>nd</sup> Beeston HQ (Summer) Barton Island	19:30	21:00

The Young Leader ESU meets at various times and places for training and social events.



## ***MORE INFORMATION***

See <http://www.swnotts-scouts.org.uk/explorers/>

Contact Chris Coats, District Explorer Scout Leader, [c.coats@ntlworld.com](mailto:c.coats@ntlworld.com), tel: 0115 9522849

Richard Pratt, District Advisor, [richard.pratt83@ntlworld.com](mailto:richard.pratt83@ntlworld.com), tel: 0115 9436965.

ESLs – see District Directory