

South West Notts Explorer

Newsletter



April 2012

This newsletter brings you up to date with the activities of the Explorer Scouts of South West Notts. It is sent to all SLs and GSLs in the District.

Richard Pratt, District Adviser

District

The photograph sent as a separate attachment shows Explorer Scouts Matt Horry, Matt Birch & Tom Camwell on the occasion of being presented with respectively their Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award, Bronze and both Bronze and Silver, and their Diamond, Platinum and Platinum plus Diamond Chief Scouts Awards.

DofE training is intended to start again soon, with 8 Explorers registered across the District for Bronze, and 8 for Silver. The training will include team-building, menu-planning, hygiene, cooking and route-planning. (Some Explorers, of course, are working towards DofE via their school or College.)

County

Discovery Explorers were the winners of the County MAD event in their age-group.

International

We continue to make preparations for the District contingent's attendance at ACANAC XXII at Idanha-a-Nova, Portugal. Flights are booked, as is travel to the UK airport. They have had to travel out a day early in order to get the best flight prices, and will be staying in a Scout hostel for the first night. Then the ACANAC organisers will be providing transport to the camp from Lisbon and back. The Explorers are starting to put together a plan for their time in Lisbon after the camp, when they will be joined by some of our old friends from Montemor-o-Novo.

Fund-raising has been going well; see below for an invitation to the next event.



(The slogan "Educar para a vida" means "Training for Life")

Tornado ESU will be attending the Essex International Jamboree

SOUTH WEST NOTTS EXPLORER SCOUTS

QUIZ NIGHT

ALL FUNDS GO TOWARDS SENDING LOCAL EXPLORER SCOUTS TO ACANAC 2012 INTERNATIONAL JAMBOREE IN PORTUGAL



INCLUDING A PIE & PEAS TWO-COURSE MEAL

PLUS: TOMBOLA AND A BAR

ON MAY 12TH FROM 7PM AT THE CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION, FOSTER AVENUE, BEESTON

FOR TICKETS...
EMAIL: desc-swnotts@ntlworld.com
PHONE: 0795 176 9631

ALL FOR £8 JUST...

OR GET 2 TICKETS FOR ~£15~

Unit News

Pioneer

Pioneer's programme for Spring term has included topics as diverse as rope-work for climbing (with thanks to Ian Rawson), outdoor photography at night and ice-skating. Next term's activities will range from cooking via a bike hike and orienteering to more rope work in preparation for a day of climbing and hiking in Derbyshire.

Discovery

As reported above, Discovery entered a team in this years county mad event and did extremely well and won the senior section. The last time it was won by a team in the District was 2006 when James, Louise, Mark and Chris (now all leaders at Discovery or 2nd Beeston) won it :-). The Explorers have also been working hard on their scouting skills badge planning a water weekend for the scouts. Rope-work also figured in Discovery's meetings, but of the decorative kind used, for example, in woggles and lanyards, a requirement of the Nautical Skills badge. Meetings will be back on Barton Island at the end of April.

Tornado

Like Pioneer, Tornado have been ice-skating. They had an evening of international cookery and are strengthening their Scouting skills with tent-work and a planned visit to the Cotswold outdoor store.

Young Leaders

Young Leaders are also Explorers and belong to a special Unit, whether they are a member of one of the normal Units or not. There is a training scheme designed to help them become more useful to you in their roles, and we ask Section Leaders and GSLs to encourage them to take part. In particular, it is important that they complete Module A, on safety and how child-protection affects them, within 3 months of becoming a Young Leader.



Census, and Transferring from Troops

The number of Explorers in the District increased from 66 in January 2011 to 74 in 2012. This figure includes Young Leaders, whether part of a regular ESU or not. That is 12% growth for this age-group., and does seem to indicate that as a District we are getting better at managing the transfer of to Scouts from Groups to Units, and I would like to thank SLs and GSLs for their co-operation in making this happen.

Although Explorer Scouting will be 10 years old this year, we are learning lessons all the time about how to steer Scouts across what is, for some of them, quite a big jump. There are four particular points which I would like to raise:

- Transfers work better if a bunch of friends all move together.
- If that means that some of them fall foul of the upper age-limit, we have had some success in making them Young Leaders first, and letting them join a regular Unit later.
- Explorer Units have to plan their summer expeditions a long way ahead. For instance, the flights for the Portugal trip had to be booked in January, and fund-raising needed to start even earlier. Therefore, it makes sense for Scouts to join Explorers in the autumn term, otherwise they run the risk of losing out by being too old for Troop summer camp, but joining Explorers too late for the Unit summer activity. (We tried to contact all Scouts old enough to transfer this year so they could join in, but only 2 took up the offer.) It follows, then, that SLs should start sowing the seeds for transfers this summer term.
- Some Scouts (or rather, their parents) worry that they will not have time for Scouting and exams. ALL Explorers have exams - GCSEs, A-levels, AS, NVQs, mocks, re-sits ... ESLs expect this, plan Unit activities around the exam timetables, and tolerate Explorers missing meetings at critical periods.

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 or tel: 0115 9436965.

Meeting Places and Times

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, Lime Grove Avenue, Chilwell	20:00	21:30
	Tornado	1st Stapleford HQ	20:00	21:30
Wednesday	Pursuit	2nd Bramcote HQ	19:30	21:00
	Armstrong	1st Chilwell Depot HQ	Dormant	
Thursday	Magellan	6th Beeston HQ	20:00	22:00
	Discovery	(Winter) 2nd Beeston HQ (Summer) Barton Island	19:30	21:00

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

More Information

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

Contact

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Richard Pratt, District Advisor, richard.pratt83@ntlworld.com, tel: 0115 9436965.

ESLs – see District Directory