

*South West Notts  
Explorer Scouts  
Newsletter*

EXPLORERS 

This Newsletter is sent to all SLs and GSLs in SW Notts District, so that you know what Explorers are doing, and therefore can encourage your Scouts to move up.

**Jamboree**

Amy Hawthorne from Pioneer ESU writes:

*"There are many exciting opportunities available to explorers, some of which are international and some closer to home. I was lucky enough to be able to take part in an international camping*



*experience: The world Scout Jamboree (WSJ). WSJ is a life changing experience for Explorers and gives you a chance to meet many people from around the world who all have a common hobby, Scouting. Its a fantastic opportunity, only available to Explorers which allows you to visit a different part of the world and learn about scouting around the world."*

A World Scout jamboree invites participants to surround themselves in the cultures of the world by joining new Scouting friends at a single destination for 12 unforgettable days. While WSJ Japan 2015 is now a memory (but for those who went, a memory which will last all their lives), planning is

now under way for WSJ 2019. For the first time, a world jamboree will be hosted by three national Scout organisations: Scouts Canada, Asociación de Scouts de México, and the Boy Scouts of America. These three distinct cultures will join together to host the world Scouting community in a celebration of cultural exchange, mutual understanding, peace, and friendship. It will be held July 22 through August 2, 2019, at The Summit Bechtel Family National Scout Reserve in the beautiful mountains of West Virginia, USA.

The age-range for young participants is over 14 and under 18 at the time of the Jamboree - in other words, they will now be Scout age, possibly still Cubs. SLs please keep your eyes open for further information as it becomes available, so that your young members are able to try for a place in due course.

## Rotterdam

When the selection process for the Jamboree took place (back in 2013!) it was felt by the selectors that SW Notts had many more excellent Explorers and Scouts than our allocation of places permitted us to send. It was decided then that some other international event ought to be put on for those who missed out on Japan. So, by courtesy of 2nd Beeston and 2nd Attenborough Scouts, 20 Explorers from Pioneer, Discovery, and Sharman Units, plus 1 more from a City Unit, accompanied them to Scout Centrum Rotterdam using Eurostar.

Here are some photos (from Pioneer ESU's Facebook page) showing some of their activities, traditional Scouting as well as exploring the local area.



Studying the Metro network maps.

Yes, there is water under that green!



Exploring Rotterdam by boat

Part of the purpose of taking young members abroad is that they explore another culture. In

Rotterdam their experiences included visiting the museum of the famous Dutch artist of

impossibilities MC Escher, spending time at the Dutch city-in-miniature Madurodam, and cycling to Gouda riding the traditional local sit-up-and-beg cycles which have no brakes; you stop by back-peddalling!

... And the beat goes on!



The Explorers made friends with some members of the equivalent age-range (also called Explorers) amongst the Dutch Scouts who were also using Scout Centrum. The result is that a party from the Netherlands have booked to come to Walesby next July.

## Other News

### Meanwhile, back at the ranch...

Units have continued with their normal meetings, covering wide games and board games, disability awareness, international cooking, cake decorating, ice-cream-making, backwoods cooking (food looms large in Explorers' programmes), Planet Bounce, rock climbing, Halloween parties, ice-skating and (Discovery) boat maintenance. One Explorer's 16th birthday fell on the Unit night, so he turned the meeting into his party. Explorers also participated in the Fireworks Extravaganza and the Remembrance Day parades.



Icing the fleur-de-lis turned out to be more difficult than expected, while on Halloween night world-domineering scientists, cheerleaders and mummies turned up to scare the Leaders even more than usual.



However, give them fire and marshmallows, and they're as enthralled as when they were Cubs



## Duke Of Edinburgh's Award

During the summer 10 Explorers undertook their qualifying expeditions for the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award, and in September they gave their presentations at 2nd Beeston HQ.



This year we have 18 Explorers working on Bronze, and 12 on Silver. As proved successful last year, DofE training will be removed from normal Unit programmes and a "virtual Unit" will meet on Tuesday nights to concentrate on DofE, in particular expedition skills such as map-reading. This DofE Unit could use some more adult support (instructors/supervisors/ assessors), so if any leaders are interested

please get in touch with Chris Coats (contact information below).

## Contact Information

There are 5 Units in the District, Tornado in Stapleford and Pioneer in Inham Nook, meeting on Mondays, Magellan and Discovery both meeting in Beeston on Thursdays, and Sharman, the Unit for Young Leaders, meeting when and where necessary for training. Explorers can be members of Sharman and one of the other Units as well, and Young Leaders are free to take part in any District or County Explorer activities.

If you have Scouts approaching the transfer age (between 13y6m and 14y6m), in the first place please contact the ESL of the Unit to which your Troop normally transfers Scouts.

Discovery - Louise Bosworth, Magellan - Tom Genway, Pioneer - Matt Styles, Tornado (& Sharman) - Anne Linsdell

If that Unit doesn't suit the Scout, they have the choice of any Unit, and the following can advise:

Chris Coats, District Explorer Scout Commissioner, [c.coats@ntlworld.com](mailto:c.coats@ntlworld.com), tel: 0115 9522849 or the editor of this newsletter:

Richard Pratt, District Advisor, [richard.pratt62@alumni.imperial.ac.uk](mailto:richard.pratt62@alumni.imperial.ac.uk), tel: 0115 9436965.

NB - During the summer Richard changed his email address - please be sure that you're up-to-date.