

# South West Notts Explorer

## Newsletter



January 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 Events**

The Explorers assisted at the District Fireworks evening. Otherwise, the Units have been operating fairly independently for this term.

### **International**

Preparations for the District contingent's attendance at ACANAC XXII at Idanha-a-Nova, Portugal, are proceeding apace. At the time of typing, we have 11 Explorers, 2 members of Network and 6 adults participating. Travel arrangements have caused us some headaches; flying out in the holiday season might have been bad enough, but halfway through the Olympics as well.....! However, we seem to have found flights which won't cost us an arm and a leg.

There have been various fund-raising activities, selling quiz books, baking cakes, applying for grants from various bodies. A cookery book is in preparation and will be on sale soon.

We have had contacts with the camp organisers and the Portuguese Catholic Scout Movement at national level. We will be camping in area "Mare Nostrum" (the Roman Empire's name for the Mediterranean) which has a theme of "Building +", where the sub-camps will be named after the early Christian communities of Jerusalem, Thessalonica, Corinth and Rome.

Tornado ESU are doing their own thing, heading for the Essex Jamboree.

Some members of Discovery are coming to ACANAC, but the remainder will be going with 2nd Beeston to the Isle of Man -- which comes under this section by virtue of not being part of the United Kingdom!

## Unit News

### Pioneer

This Unit has grown with recruits from 1st Toton, 2nd Bramcote and 2nd Chilwell, and an Explorer transferring from Manchester. They entered a team into the County Flag competition and came 5th out of 11 and, as the photograph shows, that team of Kirsty, Caroline, Katie and Connor had the opportunity to meet the Chief Scout, Bear Grylls. One important item of the autumn programme was a visit from the Heartstart team, teaching CPR.



### Armstrong

Sadly, Armstrong ESU is now dormant. As many of you will know, 1st Chilwell Depot's Troop closed some time ago and without this natural feed the Unit also shrank as existing members reached 18. Attempts to attract Scouts from Toton were unsuccessful, they have been transferring to Tornado or Pioneer, so the Unit has shut down while its future is considered.

### Discovery

Their activities for last term have included sleepovers on Barton Island, backwoods cooking and boat maintenance. They will be taking part in County MAD and their spring programme includes wide games, swimming and work for the Nautical Skills activity badge. Barton Island will see them again for an Easter camp, and they will also be helping to staff Trent Lock Water Activities Centre.

### Pursuit

The autumn term saw Pursuit making whistles from tin cans and baking mince pies. They were represented at the Bramcote Remembrance Day service. They are currently engaged in planning a Night Hike.

### Tornado

Their recent programme has featured kayaking and the techniques of survival camping. As mentioned above, their plans for the summer include attendance at the Essex International Jamboree.

## Magellan

(As reported by Explorer *Rufus Adams-Mitchell*)

Here are a few things we have done in previous weeks.

1. Duck tape evening-making various thing from belts to wallets.
2. Water fights-making water bombs out of paper.
3. Discussion night - we have debates in teams on different topics.
4. Chip shop crawl - not as the name indicates. You have each of your legs tied to the person either side of you. Then it's like a big four legged running event, run to various chip shops located in the vicinity order chips and get back to the HQ.
5. We have gone to the Hemlock camp site down the road and done lots of different activities including wide games, and even the making and firing of our own real rockets (not just the the water pump ones but using some of the same ingredients as fireworks).
6. We have also done lots of activities regarding food; for instance, making pizza and hosting our own mini-"Master Chef".
7. We ended the term with an Explorer sleep-over; we bring our games consoles down and play games and watch films (sleeping is optional).

## 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. The next round of training is in preparation and it is hoped that it will take place during the Spring half-term holiday, once Mocks are safely out of the way.



## Explorer Roadshow

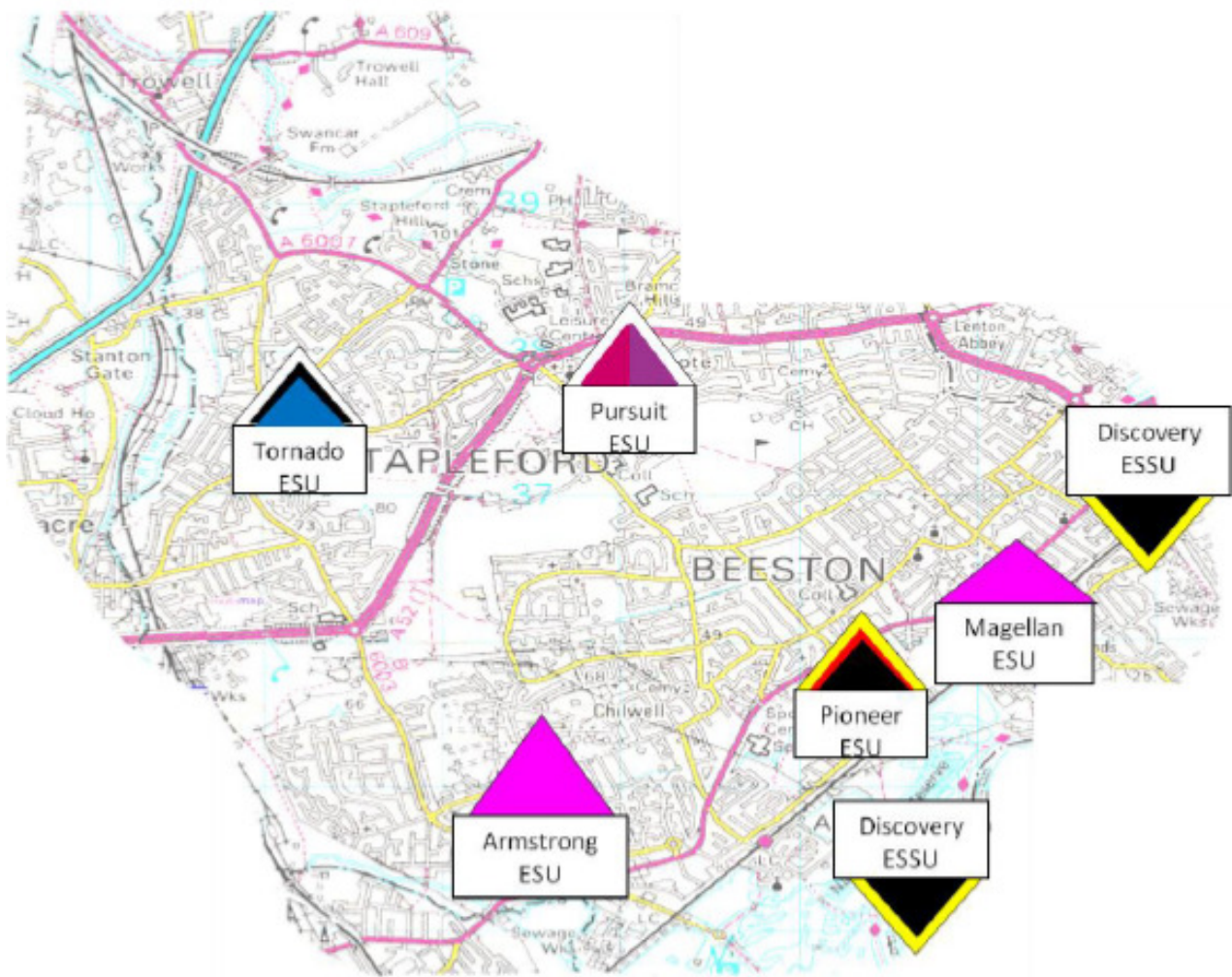
A team of Explorers is ready to come to your Troop to talk about Explorer Scouting. As some of the team have reached the giddy old age of 18 recently they have been replaced by younger Unit members, and now all the Units are represented amongst the speakers. The "Roadshow" consists of a video and a PowerPoint 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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ESLs – see District Directory