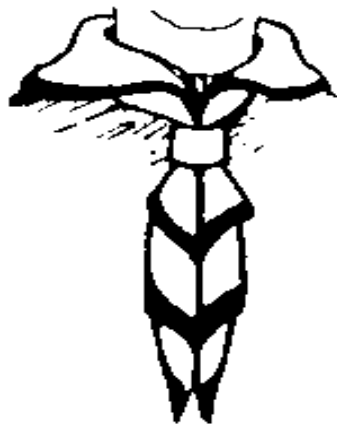




THE WOGGLE



The Newsletter of the
124th Nottingham Scout Group

December 2011

As many of you will know, our Group Scout Leader, George Stephen "Biggles" passed away on 15 November 2011. George played a huge role in the 124th over many years and was well known and respected throughout the community. He was a great friend and colleague to many within the group and has had a massive influence on many young lads and in the development of the group. Our thoughts are with George's family at this very difficult time.

George's report along with many others were written before his untimely death

Acting GSL's report

George Stephen (Biggles)

As we come to the end of another busy year all sections have enjoyed full programmes and successful camps (see separate section reports).

It has been a difficult year with regard to regular section leadership having lost Poppy-Jo Morris (Scout Leader Thor) whose work has taken her back to Wolverhampton; David Coggins (Asst Scout Leader Thor) and Naomi Coggins (Akela - Willoughby Cubs) who have gone travelling for a year following their marriage in July. Willoughby Cub Section leadership (Thurs) still remain without a warranted Akela. They are currently being supported by other sections but this of course is not an ideal situation and requires either a parent/volunteer to step into the breach - fast track training can easily be arranged - any offers?

On the plus side we have gained Vicki Gibbs (Woden Asst S/L) and in late October a warranted Explorer Leader from Nottingham University who is available during term time. Helen Clements is also now an Asst Beaver leader and is well on with her training.

April again saw lots of our youngsters attend an Awards Ceremony at the Nottingham Boys' High School to receive their Chief Scout Bronze Award (the highest award in Beavers) and Chief Scout Silver Award (highest award in Cubs). Well done to all of them!

Looking ahead, the date of our bi-annual Family Camp has been set for Friday 15th June - Sunday, 17th June 2012 - please make a note and come and enjoy the "124th 2012 Experience!"

Finally may I thank all our leaders, helpers, Executive Committee and parents for organising and supporting the various fund raising activities which supply the wherewithal for our leader team to deliver first rate scouting in this area.

A tribute to George by Chris Smith (Doc)

I have never known anyone like 'our' George; I never tired of watching him at work.

If he was talking you needed to listen
If he was teaching you needed to learn
If he was angry you needed to be silent
If he was smiling you felt happy
If he was cooking you were in for a treat
If he was leading then things went well
If he was working things moved quicker
If he was drinking tonight, then be careful young laddy!

A few words from the guy in the hot seat - John Tordoff (*Flic*)

Hi everyone

I suspect that very many of you will know little about me so, as I am now in the 'Hot Seat' standing in as the Acting Group Scout Leader, it may be helpful to tell you a bit about myself.

I joined the Group in 1972 as an assistant Scout Leader when we had a wooden scout hut at the rear of the Church Hall. There was just one Scout Troop and one Cub Pack (Beavers and Venture Scouts did not appear on the scene until later). In 1973 we moved into our present HQ. The Group expanded with the addition of a further Cub Pack and Scout Troop. We were also the home base for Summit District Venture Scout Unit and later our Beaver Colony was formed.

I moved away from the Group in 1983 to be an Assistant District Commissioner, and later the District Commissioner, but returned to the 124th in 1991 and became the Group Scout Leader until I achieved a magic age and retired from active Scouting in 2004, being succeeded by my son Cash. Despite this change of direction I have still been active in the background with Jumble sales, Auction, Christmas Market, Family Camp, building maintenance, Fire evacuation plan, etc.

However, despite having this experience behind me I am somewhat overwhelmed with the enormous task I have inherited from George. He and I were real buddies and we had worked together on all those things I have mentioned for about 30 years and in that time we NEVER had a cross word between us. We did not always agree at first but we always sorted it out in the end.

And so it came to be a real privilege for me to sort out the Scouting side of his funeral as our tribute to the man we all thought so much of. I describe it now for the benefit of all those who were inside the Church, or who could not be with us on the day. About 24 leaders, in uniform, stood in line outside the railings of our HQ at 11.30am and waited on a freezing cold morning for the cortege to arrive, which stopped in front of us. We all saluted George before forming up in pairs in front of the hearse and marching behind the funeral director to the Church, where we formed a Guard of Honour on each side of the path. We then followed the family up the centre aisle and took our places in the choir stalls, on either side of the coffin.

The Church was packed!! Quite a number of people had to stand. The service was really moving, with contributions from his brother and sister-in-law, and the most personal of eulogies given by his son Bruce. Chris Smith, a former leader, then read the wonderful poem that he had written, which appears elsewhere in Woggle. At the end of the service the leaders again formed a Guard of Honour outside the Church and we gave George a final salute. In the words of many, we did him proud. We will never forget you George.

So, coming back to the present, I see my immediate role as 'Keeping the lid on the pot' by carrying on with all the day to day basic requirements that are needed to keep us afloat. Some things were already planned or in the planning stage and these will be taken forward, with your support. My main task though is to make the most determined effort to identify a permanent Group Scout Leader. I know what a demanding job it is and I also know the job has become even more demanding since the few years that I handed over. Initial talks with various people show that we have got to spread the load and make the job very much less demanding to have any hope of recruiting someone suitable, so please be positive folks, let's get on with the job and see what we can achieve by a joint effort.

My other challenge is to our Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. It is for you to find out why I was nick-named Flic nearly 40 years ago. No help from parents or leaders please. A clue is Paris.

The "Chair's" Comment

David Atkins

At a recent 'open evening' on Woden Troop night I enjoyed an excellent night staged by the troop. During the night, Vicki Gibbs and James Buckley gave a presentation and slide show on the World Jamboree that had taken place in Sweden, last August. It reminded me what Scouting was all about.

I was reminded that that our leader team continue to deliver a good programme to train and develop our boys and girls which in turn may get them selected to attend a Jamboree. James will tell you that it was serious work completing the training to go to Sweden along with raising the cash to go, but it was all well worth it, to be there among 38,000 other scouts from all over the world in a gigantic camp city with its' exciting activities and visits. At a Jamboree, you can make life time friends from the other side world and given today's technology, keeping in touch couldn't be simpler. The purple badge sowed on to all our uniforms is the World Membership badge which signifies to all that wear it, that they belong to the fellowship of Scouting.

Some of you may have seen in the press recently that 'Bob a Job' or Scout Job Week as it was latterly called is going to be introduced, in the guise of Scout Community Week. This will give groups the opportunity to organise and complete a fundraising project which directly benefits the local community. The full details are not yet known and our leader team will have to decide, early next year, after looking carefully into the merits and time constraints of the scheme, to see if our Group participates. However, for some of our more mature scouts, bringing back 'Bob A Job' would have brought back a wry smile or a grimace when remembering the days when they did actually earned 5 pence for cleaning a pair of shoes. What price now?

Home Affairs

I would again like to thank George Stephen (Biggles) for doing a marvellous job for continuing in the role of acting Group Scout Leader. The Group is still actively looking to appoint a person for this role. You may be aware that George was eventually presented with his Order of Merit at our AGM in June 2011 by the District Commissioner Chris Flewitt.

I would like to welcome to our Group, the Scout Active Support Unit (SASU) which is now officially attached to the 124th. This unit consists of the elder statesmen and women of the scouting fraternity and we are very pleased that they have chosen us to be affiliated with. They bring with them a vast knowledge and experience in scouting which will benefit our Group. (See separate report).

Fund raising

Many thanks Owain Hughes who co-ordinated the collection of Sainsbury's Vouchers and to all of you for your donations. I pleased to advise you that we have just taken delivery of some tents and a play parachute.

Our Mock Auction held in September run by our resident auctioneer, George Stephen, raised £460.00. Thank you for all those donations which made it a success.

The proceeds from our jumbles sales have held up this year but with peoples' disposable income shrinking, times are still going to be tough. So please retain the calendar in this Woggle for future reference of the jumble date dates. Your support and assistance to these events is most welcome and appreciated.

Movements on the Committee

I cannot overstate the importance of the invaluable help and support that we get from parents in running the Group. However without a strong committee, the Group will not function effectively in supporting the leader team. We have recently lost 2 members from the committee which means that we are very under strength at present. If you can spare a few hours a year (not a week) to join a very friendly committee then please have a word with your team leader or myself. **Your Scout Group needs YOU!**

Forthcoming Social Event

The committee has arranged to hold a barn dance in March next year in the St Leonard's Community Hall Wollaton details to follow later. Please come and join us and have fun.

At no extra cost

Remember that if you are ordering that little something off the internet, especially for Christmas, please try to go through our Website because your order from the massive list of companies on the site (Amazon is one) will earn the Group a small commission retainer, **at no extra cost to you**. For further details and to keep yourself up to date with what is happening at 124th visit our Web site at www.124thnottinghamscouts.org.uk



George Willox Stephen (Biggles)
(A reflection of memories by Flic and Cash)

First memories for us both are of George appearing on the scene about 1981 as the enthusiastic parent of a young lad (Bruce) who was joining the Group as a Cub Scout. This enthusiasm was soon noticed and, as still happens; he was invited to join the Executive Committee where he became a 'really useful pair of hands'.

About a year later the then very successful Venture Scout Leaders, Roger and Alison moved away from the area and George was encouraged by Flic to take over their role, which he did in what we now recognise as his customary enthusiastic style

At Easter 1983 George went on his first Venture Scout camp at Whernside, North Yorks. The Ventures went caving at a nearby caving centre and one of George's favourite stories since has been how he pulled, and Cash pushed, one of the female Ventures who had got stuck in a narrow gap called the Cheese Press. They also went for a hike on Whernside (one of the legendary peaks). All went well and they performed their usual trick of seeing how many Venture Scouts could fit onto the top of a Trig Point column when the weather suddenly changed from being a glorious sunny day to thick cloud and heavy rain. They had to use practised emergency procedures to get off the mountain and this lesson stuck with George throughout his time in Scouting.

About this time the Chief Scout, General Walsh, visited Nottingham and all the leaders and Venture Scouts were invited to meet him at the Sherwood Rooms. We all formed a huge queue and eventually shook hands with him. He asked George how many members he had in his unit and was absolutely flabbergasted when George told him he had 46 on the books - unheard of!

By this time George had become Assistant District Commissioner (Venture Scouts) and so became connected with Venture Scouting at District and County level and started to get involved with some of the many major activities being organised away from the 124th - With hindsight it could have been training for the future!!

Sometime later George was invited to take up the appointment of Assistant Group Scout Leader with the 124th and later became Group Scout Leader for a short time, in his own words according to Cash, "in a caretaker role" until Flic could rejoin the Group after he was able to terminate his spell as District Commissioner, in 1991.

Upon appointment as GSL, Flic invited George to take on the role of co-ordinating and rebuilding both Scout Troops which, at this time, were experiencing difficulties. All the leaders subscribed to this effort, not least by a major re-organisation of the camping programme throughout the year. George loved running the camp kitchen and one of his mantra's was that a good camp needed a dedicated kitchen quartermaster. This is especially true with the format of green-field camping and Patrol based existence that the 124th are renowned for. Undoubtedly this was a hard slog for us all and many, many hours of (sometimes heated!!) discussion took place until we could have a feeling that we might have 'got there'.

In the eyes of many, the pinnacle of George's camp catering prowess were some of the Family Camps we have run over the past few years, when he and his team have catered for about 200 people and when he has produced a full roast dinner, under camp conditions, roasting 5 or 6 huge joints, and all the trimmings, on a Calor gas range cooker. This expertise also extends to the annual Cub camps where, on a smaller scale, George has established a full catering facility in even more primitive conditions.

George was also pivotal in organising the Group's two 'Extravaganza's. These turned out like mini Gang-Shows and were a huge success involving most of the youngsters and the leaders. Of particular note, who can forget his rendering of 'Donald where's your troosers' whilst dressed as a Jock.

To George, evolution and improvement were always a top priority and this year (2011) a conscious decision was made to change the camp programme to reflect the younger age range. Cooked breakfasts were scrapped and replaced by 'continental' with mini fry-ups for lunch and followed by a proper cooked dinner (all on individual Patrol open fires of course!!). This was accompanied by a leader team that spent more time teaching and working with the boys than previously. George was over the moon about the success of it.

Flic and Cash have both served the Group as GSL's and both have said, quite independently of each other, in written recommendations they have made for awards, that George has been a tower of strength to them both and has given 100% support at all times in Scouting matters. George has always been 'there' when there is work to be done and he had the gift that few have - being able to see what needs doing and not standing around with arms folded waiting for directions.

It does not end there though!! Who can imagine a Jumble Sale without George out at the front? Who can imagine a Scout Auction without George as auctioneer? Who can imagine many of our activities without George hovering, to make sure things are 'just right'? The man was an absolute rock.

It still doesn't end there - Chairmanship of the Guide Association Charity Shop for many years. Quite a different experience from Scouting you can be assured!! He was the back-room boy amongst a bevy of Guide Leaders and helped them raise a lot of money for their funds, a difficult role at times!

Health & Safety Officer for the annual NESST Challenge walk. This is one of the largest Scout run challenge walks in the country and George had been involved for 18 of the 23 walks that have taken place. His job was (skimming briefly over the surface) to check that all the teams have the correct safety equipment - and testing to make sure they know how to use it! - and to provide back-up for those teams that do go astray or need to be rescued in emergency.

At the 2007 International camp 'The Walesby World Experience' George landed the plumb job of driving a 'Land Train' (like those at holiday resorts) around the site every day. Sounds like a good job, but every day ended with him being covered from head to toe in a layer of fine dust. As one might expect, he did manage to assist the situation with a couple of drinks in the bar!!

Lastly, one of his most famous claims to fame was his organisation of two major expeditions for the older lads and leaders involved with the Group. The first, in 1990, was the 3 Peaks Challenge - Ben Nevis, Snowdon and Scafell Pike - all to be climbed within 24 hours. The second, in 2000, was the 5 Peaks Challenge - the previous 3 peaks plus Slieve Donard in Northern Ireland and Carrantuohill in Eire - all within 48 hours. George's role was as quartermaster/back-up/driver etc. They were successful with both expeditions and raised about £8,000 for local charities.

In 2011 George eventually received the 'Award of Merit'. Applications had been made for an award by us both as far back as 1995 but the rules forbade any award until the 'Wood Badge' Advanced Training Award had been completed. George did not take too kindly to rigid rules of this sort but credit to him, he buckled down and ticked the boxes for just the few items that were outstanding and the award was made. For what it is worth we both recommended an award of the Silver Acorn but sadly this did not happen.

So where did 'BIGGLES' come from. You will notice that every leader has a formal nick-name and this is usually a connection with their outside interests. In short, Biggles served in the R.A.F.

Telecommunications Branch as a career entrant. He served in the Christmas Islands, amongst other postings, buying himself out so that he and Sue could be married (and live happy ever after).

Space dictates that this is the point when we end our tribute from memory lane and we leave you with the traditional bushcraft tracking sign adopted throughout the world to signify that a Scout has died:



It's meaning is, simply, 'Gone Home'

2010 World Jamboree - Rinkby, Sweden ***James Buckley***

I was selected to represent the Nottinghamshire Unit at this year's World Scout Jamboree in Sweden. 37,000 scouts from across the world took part in this unforgettable experience. I had a fantastic time, and have made many friends both within the Nottinghamshire Unit and from across the world that I am sure will last for my lifetime.

The best part of the experience for me was the opening ceremony, the first time every Scout on the Jamboree site came together. The atmosphere and sheer size of this event were incredible, as well as there being good performances from the many singers, acrobats and other performers.

I would like to thank everybody who helped at or attended the coffee morning that was held at the scout hut and proved to be a great help to my fundraising. The Jamboree experience was incredible and I would recommend any future Jamboree to anybody within the Scout movement."

SECTION REPORTS

Beavers

Mary Bugden (Mole)

It is sad when we say goodbye to boys moving on to the Cub Section but it does provide an opportunity to welcome new Beavers into the colony.

Our termly programmes are planned to cover areas of the Challenge Badges, enabling most Beaver Scouts to gain their Chief Scout's Bronze Award during their time with us. Some individual activity badges have also been completed this year including Emergency Aid 1, Safety, Health and Fitness, IT1 and Imagination. We combined the Air Activities Badge with a Paper Plane Challenge for Children with Leukaemia and raised £55 for this charity. The three winners of the plane challenge each received a certificate and a baseball cap. Visitors have contributed greatly to many of our meetings, helping with tasks, passing on interesting information and generally sharing our fun and games.

Joining in the St George's Day parade with the rest of the 124th Group as they marched from the Forest to the Market Square was exciting for the Beavers. All the boys did really well, coping with the heat and the long walk.

Activities outside the Scout HQ are very much part of our programme. We have visited Wollaton Library to see how things are organised and to listen to stories. A drama session about St Leonard and a picture trail taught us a lot when we visited our local church. As well as looking at the animals at Pets at Home the Beavers enjoyed a messy time making fat balls to take home for the garden birds. An evening was spent at Highfields Fire Station where we participated in a water safety programme as well as learning about the engines and equipment and also tried out a hose.

A visit to 1st Bowl Ilkeston was great fun, a picnic and games on Wollaton Park were enjoyed by Beavers and family members and there was an excited search for hidden treasure at Martin's Pond when we joined with the 35th Colony.

Throughout 2011 we have been celebrating the 25th birthday of Beaver Scouting. Two recent Saturday events organised for all Beaver colonies in the District were a day out at Wheelgate Park and a Birthday Party at Harvey Hadden Stadium. The boys who were able to attend these occasions had a great time.

We hope our two Explorer Scouts, Alex Spray and Joseph Nowiski, will enjoy their time working with the section. The leader team sincerely appreciate the valuable support given by many parents and friends who assist with Beaver Scout activities.

Middleton Cub Pack

Sue Stephen (Akela)

We have a full pack of 24 boys, 3 Leavers (Dave Jarvis, Maryrose McHugh and myself) and 2 Explorer Scouts whose help is invaluable.

We have had a very busy and productive year undertaking the 4 mile NESST Walk (Nottm Emergency Scout Support Team) walk around Walesby in January and challenge badges in all the Zones - Creative, Promise, Outdoor and Global and the Cooking, Road Safety and Animal Carer badges as a pack. We have also had a number of visits including talks from PC Grayley, a support officer from Wollaton Police Station; a slide shows on the Ascension Islands; a presentation on the World

Jamboree in Sweden in August this year by James Buckley, one of our Explorer Scouts and volcanoes following which we had great fun getting nice and messy making our own volcano.

In preparation for camp we did a lot of Outdoor zone work - tracking, using compasses, wide games etc. Our "Explorer" themed Cub Camp was held from 1st - 3rd July 2011 and was attended by 16 boys and 10 leaders (including Explorers). The weather was kind and no injuries were sustained and no one was ill so a great camp all in all. The weekend is run on a competition basis with bases doing craft, compass, tracking and map making. There is also plenty of time for camp sports, wide games, camp fires and eating! Sleeping comes very low on the list! My thanks to everyone especially the parents who so kindly helped to clear the site on Sunday afternoon and with transport.

A number of the Cub's achieved the Chief Scout Silver Award, the highest award a Cub can achieve. Last April I had 7 boys attend the presentation ceremony at the Nottingham Boys' High School - Eddie Alcock, Ben Lim, William Taylor, Issac Short, Harry Fogelman, Alex Spendlove and Matty Jackson. Congratulations to all of them. At this moment in time two more boys have completed and 3 more are on the way ready for next year's presentation.



That's almost it for another busy year which will end with a party in December. My thanks as always to the 'Monday Team' especially during the weeks I was off nursing a slipped disc.

Cub Camp in the words of the Cubs:

Friday Night- Harry Ecob - Falcons (Middleton)

At five forty-five on Friday night 16 eager and excitable Cubs arrived at the Scout Hut raring and ready to go to their exciting new campsite. As we were boarding the Scout's trademark, scruffy, cramped and very blue van we said goodbye to our parents and loaded our things onto the trailer. When we finally arrived we were sat down for a pep talk and then let loose in our tents. I was the head Sixer in the Falcon tent. The theme this year was explorers, the other tents included the Golden Hind, Endeavour, Discovery and of course the amazing, awesome Falcon. After we had laid out our kit and made our tents homely we set off for a walk. It was great fun. When we eventually arrived back at camp we had some delicious hot dogs and hot chocolate and were put to bed.

Saturday Morning - Toby Bashforth - Golden Hind (Willoughby)

Breakfast at half seven was Coco Pops and a fry-up, then we did a grand howl and an inspection demonstration for tomorrow. After that we made a ship made of card for identification. This morning our tent did 3 of the 4 stations. We did tracking, map making and compass skills. Then we had lunch of sandwiches, crisps, Peperami and apple.

Saturday Afternoon - Josh Clements- Endeavour (Middleton)

After lunch on Saturday we carried on with our bases and then Bagheera called us over for Bagheera's quest which is where you go around the campsite and find names of countries - we had to find 50 altogether.

After we had had some free time, we did camp sports where we did lots of activities including javelin, dribbling round a cone, back heel flick and then a lap round the campsite.

Then we did our Scouts Own preparation, each tent did different stories and wrote a prayer to those explorers who may find it hard. Before bed we went to a camp fire and sang loads of songs. I thought there were a few too many people but overall a 5 star camp!

Sunday - Josh Hooley - Discovery (Middleton)

We woke up on Sunday morning at 7:30 and tucked into Coco Pops with milk and yummy croissants. Before inspection we had to do Grand Howl! This morning Josh put the flag up (the Union Jack). Back to inspection, inspection is where you have to take out your ground sheet from the bottom of the tent and put everything on your sleeping bag including your Cub Uniform. There are 4 people in each tent. Secondly we played a wide game called rallyco/relievio. Ryan Carty was last man standing.

Before lunch we did 2 more activities which were completing the final bases that our tent had not done. Last of all we did Scouts Own. In this activity we had to write a prayer which helped people who are lost get back safely. My prayer was called people in danger!

Now it was time for...lunch! Soon we were tucking into a delicious Sunday dinner! For pudding we had chocolate custard. We all now had free time for 1 hour and we decided to go to the shop to spend our pocket money. At the end of the day before we went home an award was given to the winning tent which was the Golden Hind. We got our nights away badges and we packed up ready for home time.

Willoughby Cubs

Emma Pollard (Rama)

This year, our pack has enjoyed a great year working towards the Cub Challenge badges and having lots of fun along the way.

The Cubs demonstrated fantastic imagination in their costumes designs for our Superheroes night. There was an interesting interpretation of who and what, a Superhero is. In particular I remember "Pizza boy" scoring well amongst his fellow Cubs. Keeping with the competitive theme, the Cubs made electronic bugs from small circuit kits and put them to good use with some Wacky races!

The pack has also visited a Livery stable and will be attending Pets at Home for the Animal Carer badge. For the Chefs badge we started the year by Toasting Marshmallows, making Volcano cakes and then progressed to a 2 course meal of pasta and a pudding. We had a summer BBQ to say farewell to Akela who has taken a break to go travelling around the world.

Some of the boys attended the Cub Camp in July and had a wonderful weekend at Walesby Forest campsite, learning new skills and enjoying the experience of sleeping in tents. We prepared for the camp by practicing tent pitching and bag packing. We have also continued the traditional scouting theme with a communication evening where we learnt about Semaphore and then moved forward into the 21st Century with a Geo-caching night. Ipods at the ready!

3 of the Cubs gained their Outdoor Challenge badge whilst on Cub camp and have continued working through the remaining Challenges in order to complete the Silver Chief Scout badge. It is the highest award that a Cub can gain, so congratulations to Toby Bashforth, Ryan Carty and Tristan Green. In recognition of the award, the pack held a "Sixers' night", where the oldest Cubs choose and ran the meeting. I was sceptical at the suggested Lego & DS concept but pleasantly surprised that the Cubs were occupied and engaged for the whole evening. I have never had such a quiet pack!

Thor Scout Troop

Dave Rawsterne (Loco)

All goes well with Thor. At the time of writing, we have 17 Scouts and three recruits from Cubs in the Troop. We're running with four patrols:

<i>Patrol</i>	<i>Badgers</i>	<i>Stags</i>	<i>Eagles</i>	<i>Hawks</i>
PL	Dan McDonald	James English	Oliver Shaw	Daniel Deadman-Corsie
APL	Tom Viles	Oliver Tomlinson	Josh Ilyck	Ben Dowd
	Issac Short	Charlie Smith	Harry Jennings	Will Taylor
	Jonathon Lee	Dany Sansum	Sam Hughes	Conor Thackeray
	Will Rabjohns	A Recruit	A Recruit	A Recruit

We've had a few coming and goings in the Leader team since our last report. Poppy has returned to her spiritual home of Wolverhampton and has found a local Group there that enjoy greenfield camping and the like; all reports are that she is enjoying her new job and her new group, whilst happy to be back in the land of 'grey pays' (a local delicacy). The Heinkes have also moved on to an extent - Glen has a full-time job as Duty Manager at the Rose and Crown, and Nathan has taken on a new challenge entirely - he has moved full-time to Walesby as a member of the Service Crew, prior to taking on a degree equivalent NVQ in Outdoor Leisure under Walesby's auspices. We wish them all well.

The programme has been our usual mix of indoor and outdoor training and activities, linked to the Scout Challenge and Activity awards. We're trying to be a bit more focused in 2012 in linking our path to the Chief Scout's Gold Award as this is the most prestigious Scout honour available within the Section and we would like to give more of the boys the opportunity to achieve this.

As ever, the main event of the year was Summer Camp. This year we were sited at an old favourite of ours, Burrington Farm near Ludlow on the banks of the River Teme. We consciously decided to take a more hands-on, less proscriptive Leader approach to the Camp, as we have felt that over the last few years the boys - being younger than in the recent past - were finding it more and more difficult to achieve the standards set by the Leaders without a lot of help. Accordingly, we implemented a more flexible programme regime and worked much more directly with the boys than has been usual. I'm very pleased to report that this seems to have worked even better than we had hoped, with the result being that not only did the boys reach a higher standard of camping and cooking overall, but they enjoyed themselves much more than previously, which was our main objective, along with increased skills.

Highlights of the Camp were many, from Pooh Scouts to rabbit skinning, from canoeing to night hikes - and getting lost of course. I think the most memorable activity was meeting Peter Faulkner, an expert in the almost forgotten craft of coracle and currach making. Peter is internationally renowned for his skills, and to those in the know he is called the 'Oracle of Coracles'. He gave the lads a fascinating tour of his workshop and seemingly ancient tools, and then took all the lads onto the river for a paddle. Some were better than others, coracle-paddling being not as easy as it looks! Later in the week, Peter, a former Scout himself, came to the Camp to visit for half-an-hour. Five hours later, he toddled back home with a huge smile on his face and the laughter of the boys happily ringing in his ears.

Woden Scout Troop

Richard Coxon (Specs)

Woden now has 19 Scouts, with a leader team of Cash (Paul Tordoff) , Specs (Richard Coxon), Woody (John Ashton) and the welcome new addition of Smurf (Vikki Gibbs). We have recently invested six new joins to the Troop who we hope will have a long and happy time in Scouting.

Following the very successful summer Camp at Ludlow we started our Wednesdays in September with a varied programme of activities including cooking , fire lighting , pioneering and more.



On 28th September we held a very successful Open Evening where we were able to showcase these activities for the parents. There was also a presentation by James Buckley and Smurf on their recent visit to the world Jamboree in Sweden together with a slide show of this year's summer camp.

12 scouts attended Autumn camp in October at Walesby. Here the Patrol Leaders organised the meals and activities for the Scouts. Fantastic weather made for a great weekend of assault course, climbing, shooting and more.

Smurf is helping the Scouts focus on their badge work this term and we hope to help them towards achieving awards in camp cooking, pioneering astronomy and aviation. Future plans include a visit to the artificial caving and climbing centre, and tip outs.

Warriot Explorer Scout Unit

Simon Grayling (Turkish)

I write this on the eve of Biggles' funeral and as an epitaph to our truly inspiring Group Scout Leader whom we will miss so much. I believe the achievements of the current group of Explorers are a wonderful testament to just how much we will miss George's great leadership, dedication and relentless hard work. I personally know of no one who will be able to fill the gap he leaves. His legacy is the enriched and enlightened lives of all the Scouts he led and inspired over so many years, as well as the current strength of the Scout Group.

The focus of Warrior ESU is the Duke of Edinburgh's Awards and developing our Explorers as Young Leaders to support the other 124th Group sections who all have at least 2 Young Leaders, as well as a weekly programme of exciting and challenging activities.

The last 12 months have been fantastic for the Explorer Unit, we grew from 17 to 27 at one point - the highest number ever as far as I am aware - and now stand at 25 members. James Buckley and Jamie Sim had a fantastic time at the Jamboree in Sweden and 7 have achieved their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Awards. All with just 2 leaders, myself and Allan 'Angus' Sharp.

Congratulations to the 7 who achieved Bronze D of E during 2011, James Buckley, Dan Hunt, Alex Clark, Adam Dakin, Chris Parker, Daniel Taylor and Joe Ecob.

We currently have 10 Explorers undertaking Bronze D of E, 6 working towards Silver, and talk by some of attempts at the prestigious D of E Gold award in the next couple of years. D of E has seen us running 4 explorations during the year. The Bronze practice was 2 days around Sherbrooke campsite near Calverton and the Bronze final was 2 days around Walesby. Silver practice was 2 days around Carsington in the Peak District and the Silver final was 3 days, starting at Calver and walking to Over

Haddon on day 1, walking to Birchover on day 2 and finishing at Ambergate on day 3, all within the Peak District.

For those of you who don't know, doing a D of E exploration means you carry all your equipment and food yourself, being only able to take on water during the entire exploration, as well as on the final explorations you are being externally assessed on your skills and ability. Thanks to Scout Leaders Dave Rawsterne and John Ashton and parents Heather Buckley and Dave Spray for helping with the Bronze final and Phil Henly, Chris Smith and Nathan Heinke for their help with the Bronze practice, we simply couldn't have done it without you.



We have just had the D of E exploration presentations to the external assessors, Howard de Jonge, Gemini ESU leader for the Bronze groups and Dave Henson, County Scouts D of E advisor for the Silver group. The Silver group of Jamie Owen, Ellie Gorski, Jess Fitzgerald, Daniel Taylor, Joe Ecob and Chris Parker presented a superb video diary of their expedition, filmed solely on iphones they expertly turned their video clips into a fantastic short programme with factoid captions and still photos all set to awe-inspiring music. The first Bronze group of Joe Holland, Joe Nowicki, Jamie Sim, Alex Spray and Josh Verso used PowerPoint to present photos and maps on the state of the footpaths they walked along. The second Bronze group of Yograj Deorukhkar, Oliver Buckley, Andrew Leedham, Oliver Cawthorne and Tom Gribbin used PowerPoint to present photos, maps and commentary on the pollution they found along their route, their presentation was described by Howard as the best Bronze D of E presentation he had ever seen. These were absolutely superb efforts by all 3 groups.

Other activities during the year have seen us Ice Skating, Global Barbeques, Swimming, Shooting, A district Hallowe'en and Bonfire Party, Scavenger Hunts, Bike Rides, Evening Hikes, Quizzes as well as plenty of D of E planning and training. We look forward to 2012 with our current crop of Explorers which includes 2 girls. Our action packed programme is planned until next summer and 9 Explorers and 3 leaders (Poppy-Jo Morris is putting in a returning cameo appearance from Wolverhampton) are going back to Kandersteg in Switzerland in February for a winter adventure week of snowboarding and skiing.

Fundraising for Kandersteg has seen us raise £422 bag packing at Sainsbury's in Beeston, a fantastic achievement for just 4 hours work and thanks go to parent Heather Buckley who simply by writing a letter to a Trust Fund got us a £400 donation, we could do with another £400 of fundraising, so if anyone has any good ideas, get in touch!

During 2012 we will continue to grow in numbers as only 1 of our Explorers turns 18 during the year. Having so many enthusiastic young people makes leading them highly rewarding but incredibly hard work. For example we can now no longer take the entire group out at the same time without prearranging parental transport support as I don't think however hard we tried we wouldn't get 25 in the Minibus - even if we could legally!

Running the Explorer Unit is becoming more and more of a challenge as I became a father to Ben in July and my work now sees me managing teams in Manchester, Gateshead and Edinburgh. My thanks must also go to my fiancée Caroline for all her support and understanding.

Because it's just me and Allan, we're only going to be able to run D of E Silver during 2012 and are struggling to make a planned Explorer Summer Camp become a reality as we simply can't do everything we want to. So could you help us at all? We meet from 8.15pm to 10:00pm on a Thursday after Cubs and any help offered will be gratefully received.

Help!

Along with our sections needing extra support, is there anyone out there who could assist with looking after the Minibus? This basically entails taxing it, MOT/servicing annually and dealing with occasional issues as they are reported (the treasurer looks after the insurance), as well as giving it a quick check over every couple of months. Please contact Simon Grayling - 07920 580 003 if you are able to help out.

Other news

Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers

Owain Hughes (Executive Committee)

Many thanks to all who donated vouchers this year. The following has been obtained with the 9,000 vouchers collected; 3 tents, 2 footballs and 1 parachute activity sheet. A huge thank you to you all!

Christmas Market

This year's Christmas Market held on 19th November raised a record breaking £1,880

AN INTRODUCTION TO 124TH NOTTINGHAM (WILLWRIGHT) SCOUT ACTIVE SUPPORT UNIT (SASU) - John Tordoff (Chairman)

With some justification you could well be asking yourself "What on earth is that all about?" and, if nothing else, we could all agree that the title is a bit of a mouthful.

So here goes: Until a couple of years ago we were known as the "Willwright Scout Fellowship" and originally we were a social group of mature (a bit elderly) or retired Scout leaders.

So why, you might well ask, have we suddenly appeared in the family of the 124th? The answer is that the Scout Association announced that Scout Fellowships would cease to exist and must re-form as SASU's (see above) and they must be registered as a section of a District or Scout Group.

So, far as we were concerned the decision was quite simple, as so many of our members are ex 124th or already regularly help with 124th fund-raising activities - in fact, just for interest, about 12 of our number can be found helping at most of our Jumble Sales!! I therefore approached 'Management' at the 124th with a proposal that seemed to suit everyone and hey-presto, after resolving all the legal formalities, we are now a section of the Group and thank you very much for having us. For ease of speech and writing, we are more commonly referred to as Willwright SASU - just a bit better isn't it!!! If we want to be formal we prefix that with 124th.

So what have you inherited? There are 36 of us at this moment; of which 24 are fully paid up members of the Scout Association with the remainder (partners) being classed as 'guests'

As a matter of interest, when I did a bit of a head count some while back, we had 3 current or ex District Commissioners and a handful of assistant DC's, 8 current or ex Group Scout Leaders, numerous ex Scout leaders, Cub leaders and Beaver leaders. We also have a few District and County Secretaries and several ex Group Chairmen. So, as you can see, there is a wealth of experience in our group.

Perhaps due to our somewhat relaxed approach to life, and the fact that we have an interesting programme of activities over each year, we have recently recruited several new members who previously have had little or no involvement with Scouting, but many of those are now included in the helpers I spoke about.

We are approaching the end of our current programme but I will ensure that the next programme is displayed for the information of everyone in the Group and we will offer a warm welcome to anyone who would like to pop in and join one of our activities. Please speak to me if interested.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



**124th NOTTINGHAM SCOUT GROUP
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE for 2011/2012**

Chairman	David Atkins		
Treasurer	Alastair Luff		
Secretary	Ros Taylor		
Secretary (Xmas Market)	Mari Hughes		
Jumble Sales	Rob Clark		
Web Site	Richard Ecob		
Other members	Richard Coxon		
	Alastair Bow		
	Owain Hughes		
	Dave Jackson		
	Gordon Cochrane		
	Chris Preston		
	Ali Carty		
	Helen Clements		
	Sally Lim		
	Caroline Wickham		
	Maxine Robbins		
Woggle Editor	Liz Hunt		

Leader Team 2011/2012

Acting GSL	John Tordoff (Flic)		
AGSL	John Spence (Chuff)		
	Beaver Scout Colony		
BSL	Mary Bugden (Mole)		
ABSL	Jane Needham (Otter)		
ABSL	Helen Clements (Badger)		
INST	Walt Bugden		
	Middleton Cub Scout Pack		
CSL	Susan Stephen (Akela)		
ACSL	David Jarvis (Bagheera)		
ACSL	Maryrose McHugh (Kaa)		
	Willoughby Cub Scout Pack		
ACSL	Emma Pollard (Rama)		
INST	Marie Hunt (Chil)		
ACSL	Naomi Coggins		
ACSL	Adam Dakin		
	Thor Scout Troop		
SL	Dave Rawsterne (Loco)		
ASL	Allan Sharp (Angus)		
ASL	Brian Dobbins (Tec)		
	Woden Scout Troop		
Acting SL	Paul Tordoff (Cash)		
ASL	John Ashton (Woody)		
ASL	Richard Coxon (Spex)		
ASL	Vicki Gibbs (Smurf)		
ASL	David Coggins (Nash)		
	Warrior Explorer Unit		
ESL	Simon Grayling (Turkish)		
AESL	Allan Sharp (Angus)		
	Willwright SASU		
Section Leader	John Tordoff (Flic)		