



## ***Don't miss one of 2008's Scouting Highlights***

Planning for this day of adventure, fun and challenge for all sections is well underway. At a cost of £2 per Scouting member the event is being subsidised from County funds and grants. This is a great value day offering a variety of adventures for all who want to get involved.

### **Booking**

Booking for this event opens on 1st April. Tickets can be booked using the form enclosed with this issue of WISPA. Alternatively book online at <http://www.warwickshirescouts.org.uk>

### **Activities**

Activities during the day will be many and varied, from an aerial runway to crafts, and from crate stacking/balancing to water fun and bouncy castles.

In addition Ragley Hall itself has a lot to offer, including an adventure and tree top course and a maze to lose you or your section in!

### **Timings**

The day will open at 10a.m. with a morning of fun activities.

At lunch time everyone will join together in a County Picnic and finish at the end of what we plan to be an adventure packed day around 4.30p.m.

### **Transport**

Facilities will be available on site for coaches to drop off and some Districts and Groups are already booking up coach companies.

Parking for cars is available on site and coach parking has been arranged nearby.

More information?

The County website <http://warwickshirescouts.org.uk> contains the latest information on this event along with booking information.

As we get closer to 22nd June this will be the place to look for the latest confirmed list of activities and final arrangements.

### **‘SCOUTING 101’**

BOOKING OPENS 1ST APRIL  
MAKE SURE **ALL**  
SECTIONS AND MEMBERS  
ARE INFORMED OF  
THIS GREAT EVENT

# ***Share the Adventure on 22nd June 2008***

## **COUNTY CHAPLAIN'S CORNER**

April is, as every good Scout knows, the month of St George. Many of us will be involved with various celebrations of St George's Day and, in particular, with the Scout Parades. I remember as a Cub and then a Scout myself in 1960s Coventry, the excitement of these parades. In those days, we filled not only Coventry Cathedral, but two neighbouring church's as well. Still today we fill churches throughout the Country to celebrate St George.

When we do so we are giving thanks for the vision of our Founder and as we give thanks for the past history of Scouting, we are at the same time committing ourselves to the future development of the movement.

Vision is something it is easy to lose amidst the busyness of doing those things which we have to do **today**. But without vision we very easily lose sight of what we are about. As we prepare to celebrate St George's Day once more, let us keep in mind the vision of Baden-Powell and add to that our own vision for Scouting in this twenty-first Century.

*Rev. Paul Wilkinson (County Chaplain)*

## **CHILD PROTECTION**

Child Protection Training on the increase...or as it should be called now: SAFE FROM HARM.

When I was asked to take on this role from, a very persuasive CC...it was the same old story...it's not a huge Job (I think he called me "darling" after that) Little did he or I know...the demand has soared.

Please don't get me wrong - this is great news.

More Adults and particularly more Young Leaders are being trained I have recently carried out training at Broadwater and Dale Street Explorers and for the first time for the helpers at WAGS.

The feedback is good with everyone saying that they didn't realise what wide range of subjects Child Protection covered.

Also some feedback from our colleagues in Guiding UK is that their leaders don't have any training like this.

Please please get in touch if you or any of your Leaders would like me to come and present to you or any Young Leader training to be carried out I'm more than happy to help.

Jo-ann Bramston (County Child Protection)

### **WARWICKSHIRE SCOUT COUNTY**

Send congratulations  
to

**Sid Russell**

County Vice Chairman

**Anne Howe**

Special Needs Advisor

**Jo-ann Bramston**

Explorer Co-ordinator

I warm welcome awaits you all

## **INTERNATIONAL SCOUTING**

### **Safety for Visitors.**

HQ has asked me to point out that occasionally Scouts from other Countries may come to the UK and take part in activities where to the general public and to Scouting in the UK it may seem that health and safety hasn't been considered, or that there isn't adequate supervision. Examples over the past few years have included hill walking in inclement weather and knocking on doors to ask for food and somewhere to sleep. If you have concerns at any time, please contact me so that I can discuss the matter with members of the International Office at HQ.

### **International Events in 2008.**

If you are only just considering where to camp in the UK this summer, it may not be too late to participate in one of the many international camps around the Country. Many events are detailed in the latest (February 2008) issue of "International Opportunities" available on the 'international' web pages on Scoutbase.

### **Visits Abroad.**

If you are planning an overseas visit, may I remind you that the completed Travel Abroad (TA) form and supporting documentation must be submitted to me at least 2 months in advance of the visits in Europe (6 months elsewhere). The same documentation is required for day visits. Please contact me as early as possible during the planning stage.

### **Grant Support.**

Groups and individuals participating in International Scouting events overseas, or hosting foreign Scouts in Warwickshire, are strongly encouraged to apply for support from the County International Fund. Interaction with foreign Scouts is an essential requirement. Applications must be submitted at least 6 months before the event takes place. Additionally, the CJ Mullis and GT Wilson Memorial Fund offers support to young members from Leamington, Warwick and Kenilworth Districts participating in overseas activities. Members must apply individually.

*Graham Martin (ACC International)*

## **LEAMINGTON DISTRICT**

St. Georges Day.....with a difference

In Leamington District we have decided that 2008 is the year to do something different with our St. George's Day celebrations.

On Sunday 20th April 2008 at 2.30p.m. our Scout District will Parade into the Jephson Gardens in the heart of Leamington and hold a fun celebration involving not only all our Scout members but friends and families as well.

This event is being led by Young Members of the Movement and will include duelling knights on horseback and the slaying of the Dragon.

If you happen to be in the area do come and join us.

*Tim Thorpe (Leamington District Commissioner)*

## OBITUARY

### **The Rt. Hon The Earl of Aylesford**

It was with sadness that we heard of the death of the Earl of Aylesford on the 19th February 2008.

Charles Ian Finch-Knightley, the 11th Earl of Aylesford was born on 2nd November 1918, served during the second World War as a Captain in the Black Watch Regiment and although wounded he served until the end of the War. A Justice of the Peace and Lord Lieutenant of the West Midlands from 1974 till 1993, he took on the role of Scout County Commissioner for Warwickshire as Lord Guernsey in 1949 until 1974 when he became our County Patron, a position he held until his death, he succeeded his father on 20th March 1958.

Ian, as he was always known to his scouting friends, together with Ray Hudson ACC Scouts, formed the 'Order of the Griffin' in August 1965 to give Queens Scouts a chance to carry on giving a service to the community. The 'Griffin' logo being part of the Aylesford family crest and the Black Watch tartan was used for the neckerchief because of his army career with that regiment. The 'Order of the Griffin' has now joined with Broadwater and renamed 'The Griffin Fellowship, Broadwater'. Broadwater is of course, part of the Aylesford Estate and Ian could often be found on site having a chat to both Leaders and youngsters alike. He always kept up to date with what was going on in Scouting in the County and will be sadly missed by his many Scouting colleagues.

*J. Gordon Richards County Vice President.*

### **DON'T FORGET** CENTENARY BADGES

ALL BADGES MUST BE REMOVED  
FROM  
UNIFORM BY 1st APRIL.

## COUNTY OUTLOOK

What a fantastic couple of months we have had since the last edition of WISPA.

The breaking news is that the Census shows us 3.5% up on last years figures which had also showed a rise, that's 177 more people enjoying Scouting in Warwickshire this year. Well done.

Anne Howe has agreed to help us in the role of Special Needs Adviser, Anne works in her professional life with young people with special needs and I am really pleased that she has come forward to help us.

We've had a site visit to Ragley Hall so that we can plan our Scouting 101 event for June 22nd. It is the first time I have been there and to be honest I was pleasantly surprised by the venue, I'm sure we will have an exciting day.

West Warwickshire invited me to their training day for Dove Trek and it was good to see so many young people learning how to be safe on their expedition and having a fun time in the process.

Nuneaton's AGM was a very well supported event and Clive seems to have all in control there.

I was also invited to a local Group's AGM where my daughter is a Young Leader. I was made to feel at home and it was nice seeing what the Group had achieved in 2007.

All of a sudden Gang Show season came upon us. Nuneaton's show was brilliant with smiling faces beaming from the stage with well rehearsed numbers, you should be proud of what you achieved.

Then it was WAGS the week after, I crewed all week apart from Thursday when we entertained our guests, some of our guests were totally overcome with the magic of what they were seeing, one quote from a guest "You're doing it all wrong, your not supposed to have young people enjoying themselves on stage, try and get them to be a little bit more unhappy" he was joking and he had a great time that night.

How the production crews of both shows are going to top that next year I'm not sure but no doubt they will give it their best shot.

Have a great spring, I'll see you out there!!

*Dave Bramston County Commissioner*

### **ESSEX INTERNATIONAL JAMBOREE**

26th July to 2nd August 2008  
Come and join thousands at one of the  
UK's biggest Jamborees,  
where over 7,000 Scouts and Guides gather in  
Essex every four years for the  
Essex International Jamboree 2008 for a week  
of activities and international friendship.  
For information log on to the following website:  
<http://www.essexscouts.org.uk/jamboree>  
e-mail [jamboree@essexscouts.org.uk](mailto:jamboree@essexscouts.org.uk)

# NUNEATON & DISTRICT SCOUT & GUIDE GANG SHOW

A stage full of young people in various costumes singing their hearts out and having a fantastic time. A theatre almost full with an audience of all ages joining in, yes - it must be Gang Show time again at the Civic Hall.

This years show by Nuneaton & District Scouts & Guides again has lived up to its record of an extremely enjoyable show, with over 60 members also thoroughly enjoying themselves.

Some of the memorable numbers included a running telephone gag bringing to life some of the problems in real life when trying to get through a long distance call via the operator.

The big number that had the youngsters in the audience standing, clapping and waving their arms was the Music through the Ages spot, when hits from Abba, Queen, etc really got them going.

Probably the most hilarious sketch was when six men of all statures dressed as women, always popular with the audience.

Another act which had Mums and Grandmas looking for their tissues was of course the youngest members with their version of 'if we could talk to the animals'

Asking the young members what they enjoyed most about being part of the show, they nearly all said "Meeting other Scouts, making new friends and having fun" and "We loved 'Music through the ages, the funny bit where our Leaders dressed up as women and the scary ghostly sketch!'"

All in all, a very good show, attended by the local Mayor and Mayoress and several County Scout and Guide staff.

Well done to the young team of producers and of course, all of the staff.

At the end of the show, Producer Ann Smith and rehearsal pianist Dave Adams were presented with the Scout Association Thanks Badge by our new District Commissioner, Clive Dunn.

*Geoff Russell (County PRO)*

St George's Day  
23rd April 2008

# WAGS 2008

If you were one of the 4,000+ people who came to see WAGS this year I don't need to tell you how good it was. Once again we can be very proud of our Scouts and Guides in Warwickshire. From the youngest Beaver Scout to the oldest member of the props team, all those on stage and supporting behind the scenes have shown what can be achieved if you get an enthusiastic group of people together, work hard, and "do your best".

Here are some comments from people in the show, a parent and a member of the audience.

## Dan - Cub Scout

It is fantastic to be on stage with all the other Scouts and Guides. It was fabulous this year in the Cubs, and I'm looking forward to being in the Angels (*what we call the Scouts and Guides!*) next year.

## Katy - Scout

I loved being in WAGS because I love having the feeling of performing onstage

One of the things I learned from WAGS is how much help and support people put into making things amazing and I know how much work the production team put into WAGS every year. I also enjoyed WAGS because of the people I meet there and I am staying in touch with lots of the people in the show

## Will - Dance Team Member.

This was my first time as a member of the Dance Team and I thoroughly enjoyed being a part of something on such a large scale and having fun at the same time.

Even after five months of tiring rehearsals, it is very hard to convey how much fun and happiness you get from being with your friends, performing in front of so many people, all appreciating and enjoying the show you have worked so hard towards.

This is why, after my sixth year, I just can't help myself and come back again and again.

## Jayne Turvey - Parent.

The experience we have had with the Gang Show has been an incredible journey for myself and my daughter Eleanor. She has blossomed from the October audition, through rehearsals, and then with the actual shows. She has gained confidence in herself and made lots of new friends, and learnt of the discipline and hard work that goes into making such a show.

I came to the show on Tuesday (and found myself in the front row as rows A & B had gone) and Saturday. Both performances were a pleasure to watch. However I think Saturday evening had an air of emotion about it as everyone was aware this was the last performance and I will admit to crying during One World. Everyone involved (not just the performers but everyone) has worked incredibly hard, and given up a lot of free time and should be very proud in what they achieved. Eleanor said to me yesterday that she was sad as she just didn't want it to end, so roll on next October for more auditions!

I too, am looking forward to October when I would like to be more involved if time allows.

Well done to everyone - a credit to the youth of today!

## Paul Inglis - Edinburgh Gang Show.

Once again WAGS puts on an energetic display with plenty of everything for everyone. I personally thought the second half was better than the first half, however the highlight of the first half for me was the Swing section and I was left with my jaw on the floor when Lorna opened her mouth...what a voice!

The second half started and continued with a much quicker pace than the first. The highlight for me in the second half was the 'Boomerang' sketch. Jordan had his comedy timing and the facial expressions were flawless! It was lovely to see so many cast members, who might have previously been landed in more of a chorus/extra role, taking part in dance; what a difference seeing the whole stage move.

A thoroughly entertaining show and certainly up there in the top 5 U.K. gang Shows.

## **WARWICKSHIRE KNIGHTS** **JAMBOREE CONTINGENT**

Members of the Warwickshire Knights Jamboree Contingent recently held a reunion at the Leicestershire County Headquarters

Jenni presenting the ACC Dr Graham Martin with his memento

in Blaby,  
where they gave a presentation of their experiences during, and leading up to the great event.

The Groups two young spokespersons, Jenni Deakin and David Wayman held the audience enthralled with their account of "the greatest moment of their lives"

## **THE INVITATION**

As recipients of the Silver Wolf, Linda Lindley and Jeane Harmsworth received an invitation to the Thinking Day at Westminster Abbey followed by lunch with Peter Duncan (Chief Scout) at the Jolly St. Ermins Hotel.

We were both allowed one guest so Linda invited Jenny Giles and Jean her daughter Tracy Leader.

So off we went to London on 23rd February. The Chief Scout was meeting and greeting at the door to the Abbey and we had good seats in Poets Corner.

The Abbey was packed with Brownies, Guides, Guiders and Scouters. The theme of the service was 'Water' and how we are lucky to have it on-tap and how badly other Countries need it and what we can do as an individual to conserve it.

After the service had finished we made our way to the hotel where refreshments were served in a gallery overlooking the Crystal Ballroom where a dozen or so tables were beautifully laid out for lunch.

We were welcomed by the Chief Scout and invited to take our seats anywhere in the main ballroom for lunch, we were expecting a sausage roll and a sandwich but it was a four course lunch.

We took our seats and introduced ourselves to the other people on the table, we had a spare seat on our table and expected it to be filled any minute by another Scouter.

Absorbed in reading our menus and filling our glasses we were totally shocked when we were joined by Peter Duncan. Linda and Tracey found themselves sitting on either side of the Chief Scout with his arms around them.

Their faces were a picture to remember for ever! The Chief Scout was very lively and chatty and we were invited to make full use of a photo opportunity - which we did!

Lunch and conversation was very interesting, Peter Duncan sat with us the first of the four course meal but was then moved on every course so that he could circulate with other Scouters and we were then joined by the Chief Commissioner and then the Chief of the Counsel.

We had a fantastic day, and sitting down to lunch with the Chief Scout (a very down to earth normal person) was definitely the icing on the cake and a once in a lifetime experience thanks to Scouting.

We even have the pictures and autographs to prove it.

*Linda Lindley and Jeane Harmsworth  
Rugby District.*

### **TONY GUY**

Congratulations on your job move to Italy with Ferrari.

our best wishes go with you  
From all your friends in Scouting.

## **CHAIRMAN'S CORNER**

By the time you read this I will be working in my new job in Genoa, Italy. At the grand age of 70 I have been asked to work for Pierro Ferrari to project manage the building of a new executive jet plane (log into <http://www.piaggioaero.com>) This does not mean that I am giving up Scouting in Warwickshire but I have handed over the job of County Chairman to Sid Russell and will continue to support him as his Deputy. In addition, after 30 years overseeing the budgeting and finances of the County I have passed this role to Sid and leave it in his capable hands. I have seen many changes since I came to Warwickshire in 1971 and I must say that Scouting is now better and more progressive than at any time in that period.

Working in Italy will not stop me returning every month to Warwickshire and I will do everything that I can to support David Bramston and Sid Russell in their respective roles.

I am not leaving, but I would like to thank the many people at County, District and Group levels who have helped and supported me over the past years, and especially those in WAGS Gang Show. I have already contacted Scouting in Italy but have promised my wife, Joyce, that I will not get too involved.

Keep up the good work in Warwickshire and I look forward to seeing you all at the Scouting 101 event at Ragley Hall in June 2008.

*Yours in Scouting Tony Guy.*

## **BROADWATER BOOKING**

You will find everything you need, from booking forms to events and diary dates, availability and brochure on our excellent site [www.broadwatersc.co.uk](http://www.broadwatersc.co.uk)

We have an excellent activity team who are ready to arrange activity weekends for Groups, booking are taken by mobile on 07914 796233 or text message.

Enquiry can also be made through e-mail [booking@broadwatersc.co.uk](mailto:booking@broadwatersc.co.uk)

We are trying to eliminate problems over bookings and would ask you to look up the web page and pass on this information to all Groups and Sections, word of mouth is still the best way to communication.

Visits to the site are best during Saturday and Sunday until 4p.m. when arriving at the site you should seek out the Warden or any other member of staff before proceeding to walk around the site, car parking is at the top end of the site.

The site is run by volunteers (NO PAID STAFF) and, therefore, they have other commitments during weekdays and sometimes it takes a little time to get back to you, just keep trying and thanks for your understanding.

*Les Alfrey (Broadwater Campsite Manager)*

## **THOUGHTS on 'WISPA'**

WISPA was introduced as the County Newsletter in 1995 as a result of discussions with Districts in a County conference in the early 1990's (CONFAB) for those who remember). It was found at the time that adults working in Districts were finding it difficult to keep in touch with what was planning in the various section and around the County.

WISPA is currently distributed to over 600 adults and is published 6 times a year, we would now like to take an opportunity to seek your views on whether you would like to see some changes or if you are happy to continue to receive it in the same way and format as you do now. All views are welcome and there is a questionnaire enclosed with this WISPA to help register your views. Please return it by 30th April to the Address on the form.

Alternatively go to <http://warwickshirescouts.org.uk> and click on the link to complete and submit an online questionnaire.

*Kerrie McCann (County Marketing Manager)*

## **WISPA**

In October 1995 the first issue of WISPA came off the hot press! With Tony Guy and Nigel Hailey taking overhull control.

Many people have asked me over the years, since I have been editing WISPA what WISPA stands for, some have even asked if it is anything to do with a chocolate bar!

'We Inform Scouts and Publicise Activities'

## **'WISPA'**

## **80th BIRTHDAY CONGRATULATIONS**

### **Ken Collingwood**

Peter and Evangeline Harris recently helped their grandfather, Ken Collingwood of Rugby District, celebrate his 80th Birthday and at the same time mark an astounding 70 years in Scouting.

Ken, a member of Rugby Scout Fellowship, and his family celebrated his 80th birthday on 29th February along with friends and old Scouting pals.

Ken has a long association with Scouting in Rugby having been District Commissioner for a period as well as Scout Leader for two different troops and a Cub Scout Leader within the District.

Peter and Evangeline are both 13 year old members of 29th Rugby St. Peter and St. John Scout Troop which is the same Group their grandfather Ken belonged to. They are looking forward to carrying on the family tradition as they soon move on to Explorer Scouts.

Happy Birthday Ken!