



'WISPA' online

Have you seen the County Website recently?
For some time you have been able to download a colour version of WISPA from the County Website www.warwickshirescouts.org.uk

The WISPA review earlier this year revealed a number of people would be happy to receive WISPA electronically.

From the start of 2009 you can choose to receive WISPA online instead of through the post. All you have to do is let us know you are happy for us to stop posting a copy to you and in exchange for your e-mail address we will send you an e-mail link for each issue.

Whether you read it on screen or print it out is up to you.

Why are we doing this?

We all benefit from technology, distributing WISPA online will help reduce some of the volunteer hours needed to despatch each issue. These include stuffing and labelling envelopes and a visit with a heavy load to the Post Office. As well as time this will give us a cost savings and it's greener!

How do I opt out?

Go to www.warwickshirescouts.org.uk on the home page click on **County Information** and then **WISPA**.

This page gives you links to all the most recent issues of WISPA.

Click on **WISPA OPT OUT** to send us your details and we'll do the rest.

If you need further information please contact me by e-mail mccannfamily22@talktalk.net or phone 01926 428897.

Kerrie McCann (Communication Manager)

Christmas Greetings

**To all the Leaders and Helpers
Scout Network, Explorer Scouts,
Scouts, Cubs and Beavers.
Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year,**

*From Dave, Jo-ann
and Gemma
Bramston*

CONGRATULATIONS

on gaining your
QUEEN SCOUT AWARD

to
Petar Ristic
and
Andrew Frost

**Chief Scout Peter Duncan presented
Petar and Andrew with their certificates
At the London Zoo**

Congratulations

NUNEATON 'B'
on winning
'Bear Trek 2008'

Happy Christmas

**From Kerrie McCann
and the staff of 'WISPA'**

COUNTY OUTLOOK

It has been a great couple of years with some fantastic large County events from Warwick Castle to Scouting 101 to Motiv8, next year we will be looking forward to the County road shows coming to a venue near you!

These are some great examples of Scouting in action in Warwickshire but perhaps with all this going on we just need to look at the weekly commitment that our adults provide running groups.

Week after week and, in some instances, decades after decades adults in Warwickshire provide a quality programme in their sections for around 4000 young people. Just to prove that they are providing an exciting programme, that young people enjoy, most groups and sections are growing in numbers. When you are waiting for the Christmas pudding to settle why not try and work out how many 'people hours' go into providing Scouting in Warwickshire over just one year, I would be interested to hear your estimates.

I was privileged to help Dave Barclay and Gill Turner present a recruitment evening to prospective Beaver parents who were interested in setting up a Colony in Tiddington. After being given the details of exactly what commitment was needed (warts and all) they were asked directly and in a correct manner as to who would put on a uniform and take an adult appointment or to help on the executive committee. I was flabbergasted at the positive response and will be happy to provide the promised cake at their first birthday celebration, hopefully in early 2010, another group restarted. Go on try it, ask someone to help you the worst they will say is no and some may even say yes!

Have a great Christmas and 2009, Warwickshire Scouts here we come.

Dave Bramston County Commissioner.

VACANCY - WISPA Editor

Do you fancy a change?

We are looking for a new editor for WISPA

WISPA is produced up to 5 times per year and we are looking for someone to look after its production. The job involves the following:

- **Call for regular and seek adhoc contributions**
- **Edit and occasionally write copy, as appropriate**
- **Compile newsletter to set timescales (laptop available)**
- **Participate in communication team planning meeting**
- **In addition the person will need to liaise with the proof reader and printer**

The job requires some experience in using Word and Publisher software, however training is available. Ability to write short articles and to work as part of a team would also be great.

For a no commitment chat and to find out more about the role please call Kerrie on 01926 428897, 07931 739076 to email mccannfamily22@talk.net

COUNTY CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

A Bible reading in our church one Sunday morning recently ended with these words: "Therefore encourage one another with these words". A company from whom our church buys some of its stock of cards for giving out at baptisms and weddings is called 'Words of Encouragement'. How many times every day do we have the opportunity to offer words of encouragement? A surprising number of times, I suspect. Yet how often do we really take advantage of these opportunities? In our modern world people so often seem all too ready to offer words of criticism, to put people down. Yet what better way to use words than to use them to offer encouragement?

I suspect that probably many of the world's greatest inventions have become reality because those folk working on the germ of an idea were encouraged by those around them to persevere at those times when their quest seemed impossible.

As Leaders within Scouting we have a particular opportunity to offer words of encouragement to those young people in our charge - and perhaps not just an opportunity to do so, but a responsibility.

Rev Paul Wilkinson (County Chaplain)

WANTED

Are you enthusiastic about Scouts?
Good at motivating others? An organiser?
Then your County Scout Leaders need you!

Keith Lewis has decided to stand down as ACC Scouts from the end of the year, we thank him for all his years of service to the County Leaders.

We now need to find someone who can fill this role, if you are interested, would like to know more, or know of someone that is suitable.

For further details with no obligation please contact Kevin Perks,

Mobile 0773448054 daytime,
Home 02476545190 weekends,
Tuesday and Thursday eve.
e-mail Kevin.perks@bentley.co.uk

Note: enthusiasm, the desire to improve, and determination are the key factors, this role is open to anyone who fits the criteria.

CHAIRMANS CORNER

As I'm sure you are all aware we are racing towards the end of yet another year, for me, since taking the County Chairman's role, the last six months have been interesting, challenging and surprisingly busy and December seems to have appeared from nowhere.

Over the last few months it has become apparent to me how much time and effort is given to Scouting by all involved and, given how "time poor" we are these days, it never ceases to amaze me how all of you manage to juggle work, home and other commitments and yet still give an extraordinary amount of your time to Scouting.

It is because you are prepared to do this that we as a team are able to provide a varied and interesting programme of activities to our members. For example, Scouting 101, Warwick Castle and Motiv8. I am positive that next year the programmes will be as exciting and challenging as they have been previously and, once again, the time needed to be given by you as individuals will prove to be a huge proportion of what you have to spare. However, the rewards justify the sacrifice and I am sure that we all feel the effort is well worth making.

Thanks on behalf of the County Team for all of your endeavours over the past year and I look forward to working with you in 2009 providing the type of Scouting that our members deserve.

Have a great festive season; however you choose to celebrate it, and a happy healthy and prosperous New Year.

Sid Russell (County Chairman)

WAGS 2009

Where will you be the first week in March?

150 plus members of the Scout and Guide movement will be at The Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa for the Annual WAGS show.

The gang are already rehearsing hard and the Beaver Scouts are yet to join us (see Beaver Section for how they can join). There are lots of new items in the show including songs from recent films like Mamma Mia, a great Rock number (bring your air guitar), the Lord of the Rings as you've never seen it before, and much more.

There will be opportunities to join in with the singing and action, to laugh at the jokes and clap along. It will be a great evening for all ages. What better way could there be to spend an evening in the first week of March. Tickets are on sale now - come and see us, bring your Group, and have a great evening.

A booking form is enclosed with this edition of WISPA, Tickets are available now from Pauline on 01564 776489 or visit the County website for an on line booking form www.warwickshirescouts.org.uk

Nigel Hailey (WAGS Producer)

COUNTY DIRECTORY - online.

In 2007 the County printed over 500 copies of the full County Directory. They were posted out to every section leader, Group Scout Leader, District and County Team members in Warwickshire.

Undoubtedly some of the information was out of date even at the point it was distributed, despite the best efforts of many.

This year we are going to take advantage of the County website. From 1st December adult members of Warwickshire Scouts will be able to log in to the **secure** area of www.warwickshirescouts.org.uk and view (and print) directories for each District and County staff. We hope this will be a better way of giving you access to up-to-date information.

To access the County Directory Online you need a password for the secure area of our website. If you haven't yet got one you'll find the **Register** link in the left hand navigation of the homepage.

Just follow the instructions and once your access is set-up off you go. **Remember only adult members of Warwickshire Scout Association are issued logins to this secure area of our site.**

The contact information will be taken from Headquarters membership database, this is our personal contact information each of us can access on www.scoutbase.org.uk via 'My Back Pack'.

Districts and County have put a lot of effort into updating these records over the past 18 months. However you can view your personal information on My Back Pack and up-date address, e-mail or phone number if necessary.

Some people have not yet had an opportunity to look at their 'My Back Pack' record. If there is anything wrong with your record either change it yourself on 'My Back Pack' or let the County Appointments Secretary, Nicola Adams have the correct information and she will up-date it for you.

Key Points

- **The County Directory will be held securely with only existing adult members of Warwickshire Scouts given access.**
- **Your data will not be accessible by or given to third parties/suppliers.**
- **This is a more secure method of giving access than posting copies to an unverified list of people.**
- **Anyone without internet access can request a copy of the directory, in part or full from the County Secretary.**

Kerrie McCann (County Communications Manager)

WAGS 2009

Book early for this great show.

2nd - 7th March

Tickets from Pauline on
01564 776489

or visit County Website
www.warwickshirescouts.org.uk

COUNTY BEAR TREK

This years County Bear Trek held at Mancetter attracted 9 teams from 4 Districts, Nuneaton, Atherstone, Rugby and Warwick.

Although cold and damp the Scouts all had a brilliant time attempting projects ranging from Tent Pitching to First Aid and Car Maintenance to Semaphore, plus many other Check points were linked by the many footpaths across the Atherstone area, so easing the problem of main road walking.

When asked what project they enjoyed most, surprisingly most of the Scouts said the Semaphore was best, with Tent pitching a close second, because it was a type not many had seen these days, a Vango three man as opposed to the dome tents they all seem to use nowadays.

The overall winning team was the Nuneaton B, with Warwick A and Atherstone A teams joint runners up. The presentation being made by Kevin Perks the County Programme and Activities Manager.

Thanks go out to all of the organisers, especially Keith and Rob. The Leaders and helpers who manned the bases, getting quite cold, to the drinks and food providers back at the base and of course to Mancetter Scouts for the use of their Headquarters.

BEAR TREK RESULTS

1st	NUNEATON B	123
2nd	ATHERSTONE A	104
3rd	WARWICKA	104

4th

KEVIN PERKS AND THE WINNING TEAM

	RUGBYA	102
5th	RUGBY B	101
6th	ATHERSTONE B	99
7th	WARWICK B	96
8th	NUNEATON A	88

Not Placed NUNEATON C 114 (Not Classified)

NKA (NO KIDS ALLOWED)

This event was held on 10th October to 12th October at Broadwater Campsite and Activity Centre.

Some 37 Scouters and Guiders from across the County attended what can only be described as a howling success. The entire weekend was given up to trying out all the activities from climbing abseiling crate stacking, rifle and archery, first aid, pioneering and knotting orienteering and open house on training for the Woodbadge. The weather was great, the food which was cooked by Broadwater staff was not only excellent but plentiful and the atmosphere throughout the weekend was one of enthusiasm.

Friday evening was spent meeting and chatting to each other and meeting staff and a cold buffet and wine to round things off. An early rise and breakfast followed by activities, a break for lunch and more activities, the evening meal consisted of wine and a choice of two meals and dessert.

The evening went on over at the Parish room open log fire and believe it or not I found the doing knotting apart from chatting and eating more food. Sunday following breakfast the training room was opened up and Jo-ann looked after that for us plus other activities brought us to lunch and prepared to break camp and say our goodbyes with a Scouts Own led by the County Chaplin Rev. Paul Wilkinson.

Les Alfrey (Broadwater Campsite Manager)

Happy New Year

'WISPA'

NEEDS

SPONSORSHIP

Phone

Kerrie McCann

01926 428897

E-mail

mccannfamily22@talktalk.net

Warwickshire Scout County

COUNTY BALL

16th May 2009 (proposed date)

Make a note in your new diary

Book early

Not to be missed

Living in Italy

When I was offered the job with Piaggio Aero (www.piaggioaero.com) in Genova, Italy last March I realised that accepting it would change my life in many ways; but with my wife's (Joyce) agreement we took the job, found a lovely Italian apartment in an Italian holiday resort, Arenzano, which is 15 kilometre east of Genova, the home of Christopher Columbus, and started to live the Italian life.

Unfortunately I had to hand over the County Chairman's position. The new Chairman, Sid Russell is doing a great job.

Many things are very different in Italy, people in Arenzano have a three hour break, (a siesta) every day. Shops stay open until 7.30p.m. each day. Evening shows start at 9.15p.m. and finish at 11.30p.m. the weather is much better, most of the time, today 15th November it is 20 degrees C and bright sunshine.

From May to October it was between 22 - 32 degrees C, and we never saw the rain.

Genova is sandwiched between the sea and the mountains, with a major port for liners, ferries to Africa and container ships.

The Motorway runs through the centre of Town burrowing its way through tunnel after tunnel. Close behind are the Alps, which rise to 2,000 feet very steeply.

People live in high rise apartments, there is no room to park your car, so the smaller the car, the more chance there is of finding a space. I have recently bought a new small car 'A Class' and driven it down from Warwickshire to Genova, 950 miles in 15 hours. Each week we meet other English people at the English speaking club along with many Italians who want to improve their skills. Unfortunately there are very few people who speak English in Arenzano, but it's amazing how exiting it is to buy the weeks food using sign language.

We are still a bit of a novelty, the "English people who can't speak Italian" - but we are learning - slowly, very slowly.

At first we did not have English T.V., so we watched the Olympics in Italian; we did not see the Wimbledon final. Now we have English T.V. everything finishes very late, 'News at 10' finishes at 10.30 in the UK but 11.30 in Italy, so we tend to retire late; but I catch the news at 6.00p.m. (7.00p.m. in Italy) when I return from work, where I am working on the development of an 8 seat Executive Jet plane, which will fly in 2012.

I have not yet made any positive contacts with Scouting, I've e-mailed and left messages, perhaps they don't understand, but I won't give up

We get home once a month, so we can keep contact with Warwickshire Scouting and I will be back for WAGS (only working 3 days that week in Italy)

As I watch Warwickshire continuing to develop I am proud to be part of a County that is at the leading edge of Scouting in the UK.

Keep up the good work and I will see you all sometime in 2010.

Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year to you all.

Tony Guy (Deputy County Chairman)

NEW ADDRESS

Joyce and Tony Guy
Via Matteotti 36/3,
Arenzano,
16011,
Genova,
ITALY

Warwickshire Scout County

wish
Tony and Joyce Guy
Happy Christmas and a sunny New Year

QUEEN'S SCOUT AWARDS

Congratulations to Andrew Frost and Petar Ristic who recently received their Queen Scout Award certificates.

Both Andrew and Petar travelled to London Zoo early in November for the presentation by Chief Scout, Peter Duncan.

Both young people had participate in a challenging programme of activities to achieve their awards.

Andrew said: " The highlight of my Queen's Scout Award was probably the 87 km. Expedition in the North Yorkshire Moors. The relationships with the Group were reinforced and we all learned a lot about the importance of communication, friendship and support"

Kerrie McCann (County Communications Manager)

MESSAGE FROM HEADQUARTERS

All adults working with our young people need to have current CRB's by end of year

INTERNATIONAL SCOUTING

22nd World Scout Jamboree 2011

Shortly, we shall be appointing leaders for the County Contingent to the next World Scout Jamboree, in Sweden.

If you are over 18 years of age and interested in one of these positions then please let me know, further details of the section process will be available soon.

International Opportunities

The HQ - produced list of international camps for 2009 can be found from the 'International' activity page on the County web site,

In the UK, Jamborees are being held in North Yorkshire, Glasgow, Windsor and Kent.

Camps overseas are being held in Denmark, Norway, Russia, Belgium, Serbia, Uganda, Mexico and the Philippines, not to mention, Roverway 2009 in Iceland. If you require further information or advice on organising an international trip then please contact me.

13th World Scout Moot.

The next World Scout Moot will be held in Kenya during the summer of 2010, please let me know if you require further information.

23rd World Scout Jamboree.

It was recently been announced that the 23rd World Scout Jamboree will be held in Japan in 2015.

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 to me at least 6 months before the event takes place.

The C J Mullis and G T Wilson Memorial Fund.

The above fund offers support to young members from Leamington, Warwick and Kenilworth Districts participating in overseas activities.

Members must apply individually by writing to the County Commissioner or to me.

The Leamington International Twinning Society

The LITS is offering grant support to groups or individuals from Leamington District visiting other young people abroad particularly in the twin towns of Sceaux (France), Heemstede (Holland) and Brühl (Germany).

Please let me know if you require information.

With my very best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Graham Martin (ACC International)

COUNTY PUBLIC RELATIONS

During a recent call in at the 1st Attleborough Nuneaton HQ, I was approached by a very excited Leader who introduced me to a shy young lady who had just signed on as a Cub Leader.

So what - you might ask.

Well, while interviewing this lady it was revealed that she, together with her horse Simba, had been a member of the Special Olympics Equestrian Team at the Shanghai World Games in 2007, coming home with not one, but two Gold medals and a fourth place award! Twenty six year old Fleur O'Donohue, from Nuneaton, has also been awarded the 2008 Disabled Sportswoman of the Year Award for the Midlands, including Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull at a ceremony held at the Ricoh Stadium. This is an award that Fleur, who has been riding since the age of three, was also presented with in 2007!

Apart from that, she also holds all three D of E Awards, Bronze, Silver and Gold!. Not only has Fleur given some of her spare time to Scouting, she

FLEUR WITH CUBS AND MEDALS

also plays for the Redmoor Ladies Football Team and works at the Ricoh Stadium! A credit to us all.

Always worth an unannounced call at a group meeting, it is surprising what you find out.

The Nuneaton District Camping & Cooking competition has just been given a new trophy.

This is one that DC Clive Dunn found while going through some of his late fathers trophies etc.

Clive's father was Jack Dunn who was ACC Scouts for several years and had arranged for a trophy to be made for the Nuneaton contest. So after wiping the dust off, Clive presented this beautifully made article to the team from 1st Attleborough Nuneaton who won the Camping section.

Geoff Russell (County Public Relations Adviser)

THE JACK DUNN TROPHY

Around the Sections

BEAVER SCOUTS

1st Stockton Beavers

1st Stockton Scout Group hosted another Leamington District Beaver Fun Day, the sun shone, all the Beavers enjoyed themselves with lots of different activities brought by each Group.

There was ride the dragon, shooting paper aeroplanes, ping-pong racing, splat the Beaver, hoop a peg roulette.

There was also sausages cooked by 2nd Southam Explorers and a lucky dip plus a great camp-

THE CAMPFIRE

fire organised by a few of Stockton Scouts.

Julia Sinclair (Beaver Scout Leader)

*To all Beaver Scouts, Beaver Leaders and helpers
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
from*

*Marion Neville
ACC Beavers*

Calling all Beaver Scouts

The first rehearsal for Beaver Scouts to be in WAGS will be on Sunday 25th January, 2.30 –3.30 at Dale Street Methodist Church, Leamington Spa for more information see the WAGS page on the County Website. www.warwickshirescouts.org.uk

LEAMINGTON DISTRICT BEAVER FUN DAY

CUB SCOUTS

This years Frank Latchem Trophy was held in Kington at the end of September and was attended by 72 Cubs representing 6 Districts. Cubs were invited to test their skills on seven different bases. After a day of close competition the winners were the team from Nuneaton closely followed by Atherstone and West Warwicks with only 3 points separating the teams. The Lord Mayor of Warwick presented the trophy to the winning team. Everyone who attended seems to have enjoyed the day and I would like to especially thank Warwick District for organising this event.

Requests to enter the next Cub and Brownie Road Safety Quiz need to be sent direct to Warwickshire County Council Road Safety by e-mail or telephone on or after the second Monday in January. There is only a limited number of places and entries will be accepted on a first come basis. Details can be found in the Road Safety Fun and Facts booklet which should be in the possession of each pack. If your pack does not have one please contact your ADC or myself.

Next years County General Knowledge Quiz will be held on Sunday 29th March, further details to follow.

The date for Frank Latchem Trophy will be Saturday 26th September in Nuneaton and it would be nice to see all Districts taking part.

The next ACC/ADC meeting will be held on Tuesday 20th January at 7th Warwick HQ commencing at 8.30 All leaders are welcome to attend.

I would like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year and to thank all Cub Leaders and helpers for all their efforts during this year.

Without your effort Cub Scouting would not be the success it is.

Tony Frearson (ACC Cub Scouts)

MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR

To all Scouts, Scouts Leaders
and Helpers

Thanks for all your help over
the last year.

Keith Lewis (ACC Scouts)

WAGS Gang Show, 2nd - 7th March 2009

at the

Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa.

Evenings at 7.30p.m. and a matinee on Saturday at 2.30p.m.

Discounts for Group bookings on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings

Around the Sections

EXPLORER SCOUTS

The County Explorer Scout Leaders all got together to discuss what our Young People want from the Section.

We were privileged to have 2 Explorer Scouts from Phoenix in Kenilworth who communicated with us very well on what they wanted from us...their leaders. They want to know who and where to go for help and guidance on certain subjects like D of E, Explorer Belt, Queens Scout and people with relevant qualifications to be able to support them in activities to fulfil their potential.

So the main themes we are going to concentrate on is communicating activities that are being run within the County that any Explorer Scout could join in.

This is going to take time and effort mainly on the part of Explorer Leaders across the County in communicating to their own Explorer Scouts about what's on offer from other Districts and Units.

This will take time... this is the start of our Journey but Motiv8 showed what we can do. The Leaders were extremely enthusiastic and supportive and I look forward to working with them over the coming months.

Future Dates:

14th Jan 2009	DESC's,
7th April 2009	All Leaders,
16th July 2009	DESC's,
22nd Oct 2009	All Leaders.

Locations to be confirmed.

Any questions - just call.

Jo-ann Bramston (ACC Explorer Scouts)

BROADWATER ACTIVITY WEEKENDS 2009

Scout Weekend - The Great Escape.

3rd to 5th April 2009.

Scouts £25.00 Leaders £15.00.

Can the Scouts Escape the ever watchful Wardens?

Limited numbers - booking can be made now.

Cub Weekend - The Monster Bash.

26th to 28th June 2009.

Cubs £25.00 Leaders £15.00

Bring your little Monsters to our Monster bash,

Lots of fun things, but watch out for the Monsters!

Limited numbers - please book early.

NKA 2009

9th to 11th October

After this years success

we invite you back for more fun next year.

Very limited numbers

Cost £30.00 per person, over 18 only.

For further details apply to Booking line.

COUNTY SCOUT FELLOWSHIP

Once again the County Fellowship have had a busy couple of months. As mentioned last time we have now taken on the task of looking after and renovating the outdoor Chapel at Broadwater. Our October meeting was dedicated to that project. About ten of us armed with spades, brushes etc. tackled the concrete area and made it look really smart, although we were bombarded with falling acorns all of the time. The remaining members stayed in the kitchen area and prepared our Tramps Supper, which was very well earned. By the time you read this the Cross will have been re-fixed in a permanent position ready for the Armistice Day service.

Also in October a group of the Fellowship visited the Lord Leycester Hospital in Warwick and had a very interesting tour of the beautiful old building that existed behind the room used many times for the County AGM. An excellent lunch was taken at the Racehorse Inn, followed by a wander around Warwick Museum and an Antique shop.

While we were examining the antiques, we happened to notice a Lledo model painted with Scout emblems and a red cross on it. Obviously this was snapped up by Gordon for the Museum, but we cannot find the history on it. Having checked with the local Die-cast Model Club, it appears to have been either a very limited edition, although the Lledo books don't mention it, or it is a one-off for some reason.

See photograph, if anyone can help us with the history please let me or Gordon Richards know.

Geoff Russell (Chairman, County Scout Fellowship)

BLACKWELL ADVENTURE

Blackwell Adventure is a unique, fully equipped outdoor adventure centre based in the West Midlands.

We have a large range of fun, exciting and challenging activities, making your outdoor experience an unforgettable one. The centre is ideally suited for all members of The Scout Association who want to run their own programme with additional activities provided by us.

Blackwell have over 37 years of experience with young people camping in a safe and secure outdoor environment. For further details call 01214451285 or mail info@blackwelladventure.co.uk

Because we believe in the value of the volunteers of this world, we'd like to reward those who bring their young people to Blackwell by offering free places for scout leaders throughout 2009