



WARWICKSHIRE SCOUT COUNCIL



Issue 75

‘WISPA’

February 2008

‘WAGS 2008’

WAGS 2008

After a very exciting year in 2007 Warwickshire Scouts and Guides are preparing for another great show in 2008.

Nearly 150 members of the Scout and Guide movement will be appearing in the show this year. There are lots of new items in the show including songs from recent films like ‘High School Musical 2’ and ‘Hairspray’ and old favourites like a fantastic set of swing numbers.

There will be opportunities to join in with the singing and actions, 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.

Nigel Hailey (WAGS Producer)

WAGS GANG SHOW 2008

**3rd to 8th March 2008
at the
Royal Spa Centre
Royal Leamington Spa**



**Tickets £4 to £10
available from
Pauline on 01564 776489
or visit the County Website
<http://www.warwickshirescouts.org.uk>
for an on line booking form.**

COUNTY OUTLOOK

A Happy New Year to you all.

We have already been busy putting the meat on the bones of activities/events for 2008.

You will soon be asked by your District Commissioner if you are interested in repeating the very successful Ball that we held in 2007 for the adults in Scouting. So far the replies have all been positive. I hope to announce the appointment of a Special Needs adviser for the County very soon. Headquarters do offer very good support for us in this field but I believe that you cannot beat having someone local who we can call upon for advice.

This month we welcome Tim Harris back to Warwickshire after several years of working as a manager at Blackwell Court Activity Centre. Tim is well known in the County and, subject to the appointments advisory committee approval, will be taking on the role as ACC activities. Tim has now moved into Stratford District and it is great to have him and Judith back with us.

Growing Scouting seems to have had a bit of a growth spurt from all accounts, here are a few examples:

Sheepy in Atherstone and Coleshill District are about to restart Beavers and Cubs in the next few weeks to compliment their Scouts and Explorers. Hampton Magna has opened Scouts after years of being closed.

Wellesbourne are starting on the road of running a Cub pack with enough interested adults for a group committee and a new set of leaders.

Rugby, Leamington and others have new Explorer and at last some new Network groups starting to sprout up. I'm sure there are many, many more good news stories in Warwickshire.

We have even managed to get two Young People representatives onto the County Executive and they are already bringing fresh ideas to the table. The new Marketing team headed by Kerrie McCann is planning a launch in February.

So with event 101 to look forward to on 22nd June at Ragley Hall we should have another fantastic year.

On a personal note, it is really great to be working amongst so many enthusiastic young people to participate in whilst having a good time themselves.

Dave Bramston County Commissioner

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

It is always good to 'have a change' but it is sometimes difficult to plan, organise and even accept. The County have begun the year by making several changes to give even better support to District's and Group's. These are

WARWICKSHIRE SCOUT COUNTY

WELCOME

TIM HARRIS

Asst COUNTY COMMISSIONER ACTIVITIES

KERRIE McCANN

ON HER POST OF MARKETING MANAGER

Congratulates to you both

announced in other sections of WISPA. Following the inspirational year when we celebrated our Centenary, County is to stage 'Scouting 101' - another major event, to be held at Ragley Hall in June 2008. Everyone in Warwickshire will be invited to take part. So Warwickshire continues to go from strength to strength. Major County events take a lot of organising and many dedicated volunteers including Young Adults are busy setting up the day. Even more plans are being discussed for a different event for 2009. However big County Celebrations cost money and with a policy of setting the entrance fee low to ensure that everyone can afford to attend, this has a drain on funds. It is proposed to increase the County Membership fee in March 2009 to £3-70. I hope that everyone will support this increase to enable County to give even more 'added value' events open to everyone in Warwickshire. Keep up the good work!

Tony Guy (County Chairman)

COUNTY CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

The date of Easter Day is determined by the moon. Easter Day falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Spring Equinox - so the earliest possible date for Easter Day is 22nd March and the latest possible date is 25th April. Rarely does Easter Day fall at these very extremes. This year Easter Day falls on 23rd March, the last time it fell on this date was in 1913, the next time will be in 2160.

The last time Easter Day fell on the very earliest date possible, 22nd March, was in 1818, the next time it will be in 2285. So this is a once in a lifetime date for Easter Day, as it falls on the earliest date for 95 years and will not come again on this date for another 152 years! This means that the shops have had an even greater rush than usual to get the Easter eggs on sale after Christmas!

The early date for Easter means that everything else that is governed by the date for Easter is very early this year. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent on 6th February, during Lent Christians traditionally focus upon their need to say sorry to God for all the wrong things in their lives and they resolves to try hard to do better in the future.

The early start of Lent gives us an early opportunity this year to look at the whole issue of self-discipline in our lives. It is never too early to admit we have got things wrong in life, to seek God's forgiveness and to resolve to live a better life in the future.

Because the future begins today - today is the first day of the rest of our lives.

Rev Paul Wilkinson (County Chaplain)

OBITUARIES

Many of you have probably heard about the passing of John Fogg at the age of 64 year, who retired from his post as Director of Communications at Scout Headquarters in 2004 when cancer started to take hold.

For all his adult life John inspired everyone he met with his impish outlook on life.

This stayed with him right to the end.

The abiding memories of John centre on his unfailing good humour, often in the face of problems, his willingness to help others, and to keep the fun element in Scouting.

He invented a unique method of funding District events using Mars Bars. The established entry fee to District events became one Mars Bar per participant. The winning team collected the lot!!

After I took on the role of Public Relations Adviser many years ago I met John on numerous occasions at seminars etc. and he was always a very humorous and helpful gentleman.

He helped me a lot in my early days.

My last real contact with him was when I went down to Gilwell for a live phone-in radio broadcast with Simon Carter and John greeted me with "you will be here next week won't you Geoff?" after querying this he said "Well, you know now, you are taking the photos at the Gilwell Re-union next weekend"

How could I refuse?

Geoff Russell (County Public Relation Adviser)

WARWICKSHIRE SCOUT COUNTY



Send Condolences
to the family and friends of **JOHN**

FOGG

OBITUARIES

A very good Scouting friend to all in Nuneaton & Hinckley, especially in the Gang Show worlds, was Ernie Johnson.

Ernie was a personal friend on the late Ralph Reader and held a very impressive museum of Gang Show memorabilia which he loaned out to both Districts for display at their Gang Shows. Unfortunately Ernie passed away in January at the age of 87 years.

Having lived on his own for many years, he eventually relocated to 'The Limes Home' in Hinckley approximately twelve months ago.

Having been in the scout movement since a Wolf Cub, Ernie was still very involved until quite recently as caretaker of the Hinckley Headquarters and was also a member of Network Russia.

An ex Burma Star man he always had lots of tales to tell about his travels around the World, either while in the army or in civvies street.

My first contact with Ernie was when he came along to Nuneaton Gang Show and I saw him joining in all of the songs, he knew every word of the Ralph Reader Songbook. The very next year he actually took part in the Nuneaton Gang Show and sang the opening solo number to a standing ovation. Ernie made a lot of friends, he will certainly be missed.

Geoff Russell (County Public Relations Adviser)

WARWICKSHIRE SCOUT COUNTY

Send Condolences

to the family and friends of

ERNIE JOHNSTON



NUNEATON & DISTRICT GANG SHOW Over 70 Scouts and Guides from the Nuneaton area are now in the final stages of rehearsals for Gang Show 2008 and as usual have been giving their all to make this years' show yet another roaring success.

This year the show is being produced and directed by a very young team of talented artisies, backing up 'in the wings' by the well known producer of local Gang Shows, Phil Highley. Scenes are now set for 'jumping in the aisles' number from Queen, Country and Western, Rock and Jazz, also shows such as Cabaret, and not forgetting the young Cubs and Brownies with their sketches and dance routines including lots of 'animal' songs. Of course no Gang Show would be complete without the ever popular Ralph Reader Song Book.

Gang Shows are always worth a visit, if only to see the look of pleasure and happiness on the faces of the children, and the tears in the eyes of Grandma when she sees her little grandchild on stage.

The show is being held at the Bedworth Civic Hall from Wednesday 27th February to Saturday 1st March, commencing at 7.30. There is no Saturday matinee this year. Tickets are still available from the Box Office, or contact the Ticket Secretary, Sandra on 024 7649 0449. Adults £7.50 Children & Concessions £6.00 Special Rates are also available for groups of 20 or more.

Headquarters News

Centenary 2007

The large blue Centenary Badge can remain on your uniforms until March 2008

This also applies to your Centenary Necker.

Please make use all members have removed the badge and neckers by the end of March 2008.

**This
Space
could
have
held
your
Report!!**

AROUND THE SECTIONS

CUB SCOUTS

I trust that you all had a good break over the Christmas and New Year period.

This year promises to be quite challenging and exciting with all the changes etc. being made to the programmes. I would expect to see a gradual implementation of these changes.

The final of the Road Safety Quiz run by Warwickshire County Council will be held at The Spa Centre, Leamington Spa on Monday 17th March. The questions and answers for the first part of the competition are in my possession and I will send these to any leader who wishes to contact me. The scores together with full contact details need to be in my possession no later than Friday 29th February. As usual there will be cash prizes for the teams coming in the top three positions. It would be nice to see a Cub pack winning this trophy rather than being second place to the Brownies.

I am hoping to arrange a County Quiz in the next few months, details will be announced in WISPA.

Finally my sincere thanks to everyone who made our Centenary year such a success and I know that with your support we can continue our success into 2008 and beyond.

Tony Frearson (ACC Cubs)

COUNTY SCOUT FELLOWSHIP

They said it would never last!!

The County Scout Fellowship, or 'Dad's Army' as our last County Commissioner called it, has just celebrated its 21st Birthday and is still going strong. The Group was started by the retiring County Commissioner at that time, Gordon Richards, to encourage members who were finishing their time as possibly County or District staff and did not feel they would be able to go back to their old District or Groups to continue their Scouting.

At that time there were no other County Fellowships in the Country, but Gordon pressed on with his idea and together with Les Alfrey, held a meeting at his home and ten people turned up. Of those original ten. Five are still involved, Gordon, Les and Iza Alfrey, Dorothy Thomas and yours truly Geoff Russell. Eventually the Fellowship grew and grew till our number went into the mid twenties, never lower than fifteen.

During their 21 years, the County Fellowship has been prevalent at many County events, helping 'back stage' and in the early days, raising funds to help the Order of the Griffin purchase their Mini-bus and also visiting the Griffin cottage in Wales to help with the maintenance

Another project which has benefited from the help of the County Fellowship is the County Scout and Guide Museum, now based at Broadwater, this being a lifelong ambition of Gordon's also. The Fellowship meet every

month at Broadwater, at lunchtime on the first Saturday in the month during the winter months and the first Thursday evening during the summer period. Our membership at the moment stands at 24, ranging from 95 years of age to the low fifties, coming from a very wide area, Moreton in the March in the South to Atherstone in the North, Rugby in the East and Marston Green in the West! Following our meeting in November we had a very interesting guided tour around the rooms, cellars etc. of Tamworth Castle, and at our Christmas meeting, always a light hearted one with a meal, Gordon cut a 21st Birthday cake with sixteen of us present. Les and Iza were absent as they were touring Australia.

DIRECTORY UPDATE

To ensure that you receive your copy of Warwickshire WISPA please remember to inform Andy Walker at
9 Hughes Close,
Warwick CV34 5FA

The closing date for April 2008 issue of Warwickshire WISPA will be 14th March 2008
Please send articles, of no more than 300 words to;
Wendy Buckley,
29 Huckson Road,
Bishops Itchington
Southam CV47 2TF Phone 01926 613769
e-mail paul.buckley3@btinternet.com

National Scout Archery Competition

10th - 11th May 2008

Self catering weekend camp open to

Cubs, Scouts, Explorers, Network and Adults Leaders.

20 yd. Target Archery. 5-20 yd. Field Archery

100 yd. Cloud Archery

2 entry levels—equipment provided or own equipment
(recurve bows only)

Archery Weekend for Leaders

13th—14th September 2008.

Relaxing weekend for Leaders.

Further information for both events

from Tim Beeching on

tinfbb.hsac@ntlworld.com