



Solihull Scout Times

www.solihullscoutcounty.org.uk

February 2006

Produced for Solihull Scout County

Editors Bit

Happy New Year to all of you; the nights are drawing out and it will not be long before all of the outdoor activities will be running flat out, so here we go. Do tell us either through the newsletter or the Website what you are doing for Scouting and we will be able to tell the rest of the County.

Solihull Gang Show -

28th November to 2nd December 2006

Yes you can be part of it!

The Gang Show for 2006 is leaping into action. Production meetings have been held and it looks like we are going to have a great show. If you would like to join the cast for this great show, no previous experience is needed, you just need to be a member of either the Scouts or the Guides. Please come along to our 'Workshop Afternoon' at St Mary's Hobs Moat Church Hall from 2.30 to 5.00 on Sunday 14th May.

We are a friendly lot and will even let you have a drink and a biscuit!

We need a cast of 60 so there is plenty of room for you all.

We are already looking at appointing the production 'Team' so if you have got a special skill that you feel would help us then please get in touch via www.solihullgangshow.com or solihullgangshow@aol.com.

Leaflets and flyers should be going out to the groups and sections shortly, and these will also be downloadable from the County web site.

21st 6-Summits Challenge

The 21st 6-Summits Challenge invitations have now been sent out to the 20 Groups that took part last year. It will be 3 days from 29th April to 1st May 2006. If any others would like to join in could they please contact John Clayton on jac.58aa@lineone.net

District Commissioner Blythe District

The District Commissioner for Blythe, Joyce Jukes, is retiring from the post of DC with effect from the District AGM on 13 June 2006 and, as you may know, Ian Carnell has been asked to chair a search group to identify and submit to the County Commissioner our recommendations for a successor.

The Search Team feels that all adult members of the County (in both Districts) should be personally circulated and involved in the process and we invite them to submit a nomination (or nominations) for this important appointment. Nominations should be submitted in an envelope marked "*Personal and Confidential - District Commissioner Nomination*" to the County Chairman.

The time limit for nominations has now been extended to Saturday 4 March 2006.

Please note that in order to ensure confidentiality, and prevent building up false hopes, nominations should be submitted without approaching the individual concerned. Any approaches will be made by the search group at the appropriate time.

Please give serious and urgent consideration to people with whom you work in Scouting, at work or in the wider community and to identify anyone who you believe has the qualities to be a District Commissioner. Please don't compare them against the current or any previous DCs. At this stage it is important to draw up a list with as wide a cross section of people as possible, so that the search group can begin the process of preparing a short list.

As a recipient of this newsletter you are likely to be in the best position to know the potential candidates and the needs of a District. Please play your part in ensuring that due consideration is given to all possible candidates by submitting your nomination.

Thank you in anticipation of your kind support

First Response First Aid Courses

The dates for the courses are 10th June, 7th October and 2nd December. All leaders are reminded that a current First Response Certificate (or approved equivalent) is a requirement of any warrant being given by the association.

Please contact Ann Moseley to book your place.

Scout Network

Mark Doughty has been appointed County Scout Network Commissioner w.e.f. 1st December 2005. Contact:- spoffdoughty@yahoo.co.uk

Solihull Scout Fellowship

As most of you already know, the purpose of the Fellowship is to enable anyone who is, or has ever been, involved in Scouting - whether or not they have ever held a Warrant - to keep in touch with Scouting people from elsewhere in the County. It is purely for enjoyment and there are no hidden commitments or responsibilities. They meet once every eight weeks at the County HQ at Millpool, usually to hear an interesting speaker and have the chance of a chat over a cup of coffee. It is all very informal and friendly, and the only charge is £1.50 a meeting to cover expenses.

If you are interested, please contact Betty Simmonds, Chairman, who will send a copy of the current programme -

betty.simmonds@amserve.com

The Fellowship Newsletter and forthcoming programme can also be found on the County Web Site.

Christmas Charity Fund Raising

Blythe District Beaver Scouts raised a magnificent total of £653 for ChildLine; this was presented to ChildLine's representative at the Beavers' Carol Service which was held at St James's Church, Shirley.

Blythe District Cub Scouts also raised money for their chosen charity and donated the collection of £98.33 from their Carol Service held at Solihull Methodist Church to The Emanuel Young People's Trust.

Sea Scouts in Marathon Bag Pack!

Over fifty young people from 4th Knowle Sea Scout Group have just completed a marathon bag pack at Sainsbury's in Shirley. The Sea Scouts, all aged between 10 and 18, completed a total of 24 hours bag packing at the store during the run up to Christmas. Donations from customers raised an incredible £4,102! The money will go towards expanding the Group's fleet of canoes to keep more young people from Solihull occupied and active throughout 2006. Some of the money raised will also directly sponsor a team of Sea Scouts that are undertaking a challenging expedition in Canada next summer. The team will be canoeing for ten days in the wilderness of Ontario in order to become Queen's Scouts. The Sea Scouts would like to thank the store manager, staff and customers for their support, generosity and many kind words.

MDM

Yes, this is new title that HQ has dreamed up to make us more up to date! It stands for Media Development Manager and as I was the Newsletter Editor, I sort of got the job. What is it? Well that is up to you lot; one of my roles is to give support to any of you that are running events or have great stuff to say about you, your group, unit, troop, pack or colony, get as much out as possible. So give me a ring and let me know what is going on so we can make the most of Scouting, which we all know is always Great News. I am trying to develop better relations with the local media but without a steady stream of stuff to let them have they are not really interested in us. If any of you are budding reporters, give me a ring and we will see what we can do. Andy Moore

Minibus for sale

1st Shirley have their minibus ('P' Reg) available for sale - Contact Trevor Richmond for details.

Sea Scout kayaking sessions

As you may have heard, a team of Sea Scouts have recently been running kayaking sessions for Scouts in Solihull. The sessions have so far been well attended by young people from various Groups/Units and include instruction in both kayaking and lifesaving, with lots of fun and games, and are excellent value for money. The team are organising the sessions to help fundraise for their Queen's Scout Award expedition to Canada this summer and also as part of their training to become BCU Coaches. The next session is on Sunday 2nd April at Archbishop Ilsley School, Acocks Green. Cost: £10 per session. Please contact James Johnson of 4th Knowle Sea Scouts for more info/to book. (jamesjohnson@knowleseascouts.org.uk)

!!Stop Press!! Sea Scouts

Congratulations to 4th Knowle Sea Scouts whose recognition by the Admiralty Board was retained after an inspection on Wednesday 15th February.

Dear Editor

Can you please tell me why the scouts of today do not stand out from the crowd? In my day with our shorts, brimmed hats and a cheery smile we were respected across the community. Is it not time for a return to the old values?

The Old Grouch

Newsletter Editor & MDM

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Articles for the next Newsletter by end March 2006, please.