



Solihull Scout Times

For Solihull Scout County July 2007

<http://www.solihullscouts.org.uk/>



Editors bit

Well I must apologise for the long gap since the last edition of the news letter. This is all my fault I must find a way of getting a few more hours in the day. I will try to get more editions running next term so please do try to send in some articles for me. Please do not assume that I have already had some information on certain events as you would be very surprised how many County and District events do not get reported on if I was not able to attend myself.

World Scout Jamboree, Hylands Park, Essex 27th July – 8th August

40,000 young people from over 200 countries and territories around the world, living under canvas and experiencing a wide range of activities that will in turn inspire them, challenge them, and thrill them.

<http://eng.thejamboree.org/>

Just in case you missed all the earlier information.

SOLJAM 2007

I am aware there was some suggestion that the County and District teams intend to come to wave their unit off to the Jamboree.

If you do intend to do so, we leave the Corus Regency Hotel, Stratford Road, Shirley at 10.30am on Thursday 26 July. I will contact the Mayor and local press to see if they wish to attend.

Let me know who intends to come, just so we don't go before you arrive! Steve O

Solihull Scout County Scouting's Sunrise – 1st August

Join with Solihull Scouts in a celebration of the birth of Scouting exactly 100 years ago. The Sunrise event will take place in Mell Square at 8.15am on Wednesday 1st August 2007.

Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers, Network, Fellowship, and Leaders, in short, anyone connected with Scouting can attend the event.

Just meet at or near the fountain in uniform or centenary gear with your section flags.

We want to put on a show to say that Scouting is alive and kicking in the 21st Century 100 years after its birth.

We are also hoping to have the Mayor of Solihull present.

It would be great if every group could be represented.

Programme:

8.00 for 8.15 Parade together

Short history Lesson

Beaver promise renewal

Cub Scout Promise

Scouts, Explorer Scouts and

Adults Promise

Rousing chorus of Ging Gang

Gooly (practice makes perfect)

Move off for Food and Drink at

MacDonalds *

The End Home

*The cost of food and drink will be met by County for all uniformed members who attend

Can you please

1. Let us know by return email to info@solihullscouts.org.uk or your District Secretary by e-mail, telephone or post if your group/section will be attending

this event, with approximate numbers. (This will be useful to us for the initial planning)
2. by 27th July, Let us know by email to info@solihullscouts.org.uk or your District Secretary by e-mail, telephone or post how many adults and young people plan to attend and which group you belong to. (This is so we can warn McDonalds how many they will be feeding!)

Special Needs Grant

Alan Martin, ACC Special Needs, has received a letter stating that we have been awarded £5,400 by the local network fund to continue the scheme to support youngsters with special needs

County Communications Update

Please note that 'solihullscoutcounty' has been replaced by 'solihullscouts' in all County web and email addresses.

Email addresses are now xxx@solihullscouts.org.uk etc

The County website has been modified recently and is hopefully easier to read and navigate - see it at

www.solihullscouts.org.uk .

We want to add some pictures / review of the Funday in June - if you have any pictures / movies please let us know - email them to

website@solihullscouts.org.uk

We have also added a "Blog" - this allows members to have a say, post an item and to comment on posted items.



International Flag

Solihull County now has a new International Flag which has been bought in memory of **Dave and Kath Hyde**.

Dave was leader of 1st Olton Senior Scouts which later became Triton-Vandyck Joint Venture Scout/Ranger Guide Unit. He led many international expeditions with them and the unit had a close partnership with 1st Kristiansand Scout Group in Norway. Dave became ADC Ventures in the old Solihull North District and also International Adviser.

Kath, a former Guide leader, supported Dave in his Scouting and after Dave's premature death took important roles in Scouting as a very active ACC International and as County Secretary. She organised fund raising and arrangements for previous jamborees and when she died her sons Andy, Mike and Stephen decided that they would like to donate a generous sum to Solihull Scouting to advance International Scouting in the County. Part of this, with their full support, was for an International Flag to be taken on expeditions by County, District and Groups.



Brownsea Island Centenary Celebrations

26th July – 4th August

During 2007, there will be celebrations held on Brownsea Island to mark 100 years of Scouting, with the climax being a Sunrise Ceremony on 1st August 2007 that will see Scouts from nearly every country in the world represented on the island.

<http://eng.brownsea2007.org/>

County Dof E Adviser

Debbie Peake has taken on the role of County Dof E Adviser and all DofE enquiries should now be directed to her - dofe@solihullscouts.org.uk
0844 8845451

County Cub Scout Expedition to France 2008

Report from Ian Carnell.....

I am planning another **County Cub Expedition** – the fourth I have organised and the third to France. This will be near Calais at Ardres near a tranquil lake for 4 days in the Summer Holidays of 2008 and may include activities such as Catamaran Sailing, Archery, Kayaking, Fencing, Mission Impossible, Raft Building, Dragon Boating.

The date will be **1st to 4th August 2008** (Friday to Monday to minimise the amount of leader holiday time lost). The cost will be around **£115** per head which will include transport by coach from Solihull to the campsite and back, ferry fares, accommodation in tents, food and all activities. This is certainly good value and is cheaper than most British centres. We shall need a deposit of £25 per head by the end of September.

The centre is run by Acorn Venture which runs a good number of Scout and Cub activity weeks and the organisation used at the last Solihull County Expedition to France.

There will be limited numbers but we hope to accommodate as many as possible. At this stage I am asking for an expression of interest and this is not committing you.

The web site describes the centre as follows:

“Our exclusive centre has a superb lakeside setting just outside the town. This large tranquil lake enables us to provide a tremendously flexible water sports programme for all our groups, from first-time 'tasters' upwards. The exciting activities on offer range from kayaking and dinghy sailing to windsurfing and dragon boating. This year we are also offering Mini Cats -a guaranteed to thrill! The charming town of Ardres is an un-spoilt old market town with many buildings of historical interest. The centre is only 25 minutes away from the port at Calais.

Ian Carnell

Civic Awards Night

The Mayor of Solihull has kindly agreed once again to host the presentation of Chief Scout's Gold, Platinum & Diamond Award certificates and Queen's Scout Award Mayoral certificates in the Council Chamber at 7.30pm on **Tuesday 11th September 2007**.

Hopefully, Application Forms, with a covering letter, were sent out to GSLs and all relevant Section Leaders in May. Alternatively you can send for one direct by e-mailing Ken Hughes (see below). Deadline for the receipt of applications is **31st July 2007**, which is the day that the certificates will be ordered and the invitations prepared for sending out direct to the recipients and their families.

Further information can be obtained from Ken Hughes on 0844 8845451 or by e-mail ken.hughes04char@tiscali.co.uk

Chase Walk 2007.

On Saturday 17 March 2007, over 60 Scouts, Explorers, Networkers and Leaders from Blythe took part in the annual Chase Walk, a 42-mile hike in, around and over Cannock Chase.

This year the day began cold and cloudy, but developed into a warm spring day, ideal for a waddle around. Teams from Network, Buckholt, Tidbury Green, 1st Shirley, 6th Shirley, Intrepid, Simpson and Drake, all entered the walk with over 40 finishing the event, a very creditable performance. This year as in the past, our local Scouts were placed in many categories in the event.



Not to be outdone, a team of 7-Scouts from 6th Shirley entered and finished the Scout event which is 13-mile long. The well attended presentation held on the Sunday morning after the event, was almost an exclusive 'Blythe' affair.

youngsters to our movement. Although Scout uniform was the most popular abseil clothing, swimwear and tuxedos were also adorned during the descent.

As the event was held over the whole day, it enabled hundreds of people to watch the proceedings whilst out shopping.

The highlight was when Chris Brayson (Intrepid and Soljam) was presented with a cake to celebrate his 16th birthday halfway down the abseil wall. To hear hundreds of people on all 7-floors singing happy birthday was quite spectacular.

Peter Hopton one of the organising Scouts told us, "we

One of the Explorer teams from Intrepid began the trophy hunt by coming 3rd in the virgin's event. Despite having never entered the event before the team of 5 completed the course in 17 hours. The Scout leaders from 6th came 2nd in the Vets trophy in a time of 11hrs 35min. The lads from Drake came 2nd in the Explorer category in 12hrs 43min, whilst the Drake ladies team won the ladies event in 12hrs 41mins. Fastest local

theAbseil

On Saturday 24 March 2007, Solihull Scouts attempted to set world records for the highest and most people completing an indoor abseil.

'theAbseil' was held in John Lewis car park, Touchwood shopping centre in Solihull.

Although the event was originally arranged as a fund-



raising venture for Soljam, the County Unit attending the world Scout Jamboree, it was decided that it would also be an excellent opportunity to advertise Scouting in Solihull.

During the day over 80 people abseiled down the atrium of the car-park, a height of over 70 feet, whilst the County team used the occasion to try and recruit new leaders and

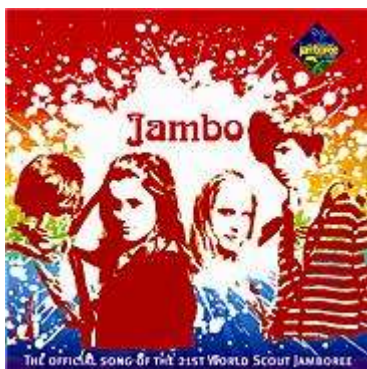
would like to thank Touchwood and John Lewis, for allowing us to use the car-park for our attempt, as well as Pinnacle Challenge who have helped with the actual abseiling. I enjoyed the event, and particularly enjoyed being interviewed by ITV for their news bulletins."

The event not only enabled Soljam to raise money, but also showed the people of Solihull how exciting Scouting can be.



team on the day were Drake leaders who came 2nd overall in a time of 10hrs 31mins – an average speed of almost 4mph!

Jambo hits the shelves!
Last week saw the much anticipated release of 'Jambo' - the official song of the 21st World Scout Jamboree. The souvenir CD will be on the shelves of Tesco stores nationwide from Monday, 2 July. It includes five tracks plus the Official Jambo Video and costs only £3.99.



We are on a mission to get Scouting to the top of the UK Singles Chart so please make sure you get your copy. You can also order the CD online at www.tesco.com or download the tracks for just 99p at www.jamboreesong.com. We have also produced a [lyrics sheet](#) so that you can learn the song with your Section/Group and perform your own version to the karaoke track, which is included on the CD and also available to download. So come on Solihull (and friends) lets down-load and / or buy, and get the record to number 1 for when the Jamboree starts

Your County Needs You SOLJAM CALLING

Calling all Scouts, Explorers, Networkers and Leaders. As you know between the 23 - 27 July we are hosting Scouts and Leaders from Holland and Switzerland, before they go to the World Scout Jamboree. The

Swiss Scouts will be living with families across the County, whilst the Dutch are all staying at 1st Solihull's HQ. As you can imagine sorting over 80-visitors is no mean feat, and activities are planned for the duration of the visit. This is where you come in. If any of you can give up some time during this period it would be a great help. Jobs include helping at 1st Solihull HQ, putting up tents and the stage for Mini-jam on the 25th, helping serve food, and taking tickets during the event. Numerous jobs need to be filled during this period, and any help will be gratefully received. On the 23 July 1st Solihull are having a camp-fire for our Dutch guests. They would like Scouts, Explorers, Guides and Network to take part in this evening, to mix with the Scouts at the camp-fire, and give them a taste of Solihull. We are also looking for youngsters to help our guests socialise. I have previously sent out an e-mail asking any Scouts or Explorers that may be interested in being a 'buddy' and taking any guest Scouts to Birmingham, Solihull, or just showing them around whilst they are with us. If you are able to help at any stage, in anyway, please contact Steve O'Grady on 0121-744-3064 or any of the HoHo team and we'll be able to provide you with a little task during this period. Steve O

HO HO Mini Jam

On the 25th July, we invite you, and your family to come and join us at the Millpool, Lode Lane, for a Mini-Jam to welcome Swiss and Dutch Scouts to Solihull on their way to the Jamboree. There will be:

A BBQ
Live local bands
Tuck shop- glow sticks, sweets and drinks, bring your pocket money!
Bring a chair and dress for the weather!
Admission from 7pm, by ticket
Applications for tickets to:-
Kate Jeyes on 0844 8845451

Mayor's Inauguration St Alphege Church

On Sunday 10 June 2007, 25-Scouts and Guides from across the County formed a Guard of Honour outside St Alphege Church, in Solihull, for the new Mayor of Solihull. The Mayor and Mayoress attended the Civic Service followed by a reception at the Council House. The service was to celebrate his appointment as the Borough's first citizen.



Local Councillors, MP's MEP's and local dignitaries were also in attendance

Solihull County Funday

What a great day was had by all! The rain held off, well almost, and the Circus was absolutely stunning
Congratulations to fellowship members for cooking over 1000 Hot Dog Sausages; several of the kids asked if they could come again next week. I think the organising committee was considering it. Many thanks to all of the teams who worked so hard to make it an enjoyable day for all concerned.

Cole District 5 A-Side Football Competition

To all those Scouts who took part in the Cole District 5 A-Side Football Competition, it was contested at the highest level with all the boys and girls showing great enthusiasm and enjoyment in all the matches played. The final was played with the two teams putting so much effort in that it could not be decided except for penalties, the first time it had been decided this way for many years. The eventual winners were 2nd Olton and runners up 2nd Balsall Common, 3rd place went to 8th Solihull, my congratulations to those and all the other teams that took part.
Mick Paget

4th KNOWLE SEA SCOUT GROUP

Calling all Bandies

Knowle Sea Scouts are searching for help! They are hoping to start a marching band, but don't yet have the instruments or the expertise. What they do have, however, is plenty of Sea Scouts that are good musicians and want to be a part of it.

They are looking for help from anyone that may be able to source suitable instruments, or offer advice on setting up a marching band. They would particularly like to hear from anyone that has served in a military marching band, especially the Band of HM Royal Marines.

The Mayor of Solihull's Sea Scout, Patrol Leader Alastair Mears, said "many of us already play instruments in everything from orchestras to rock bands and were all keen put our skills together to form a marching band. It would be great to hear from anyone that can help us get it together, and we hope that

something as unusual as a marching band would be good for Solihull too".

Knowle Sea Scouts are sponsored by the Royal Navy and welcome males and females aged ten to eighteen. If you can help, please email band@knowleseascouts.org.uk.

Sea Scouts win Top Trophy

A team of Solihull's Sea Scouts have won a national competition; the Malvern Challenge. The challenge took place last weekend in Gloucestershire and was attended by over 2,000 Scouts from around the UK.

Knowle Sea Scout Group entered four teams, and each had to complete a hike as well as a range of challenges including an abseil, a first aid scenario, an assault course and a navigation exercise. The hike and challenges were assessed and the winning team consisted of Tom Barnfield, Phil Krstic, Alastair Mears, Ben Train and George Walker. Sixteen year old Watch Leader Phil Krstic said, "despite almost drowning in mud, we ran most of the route and worked really well together in each of the challenges. For some of us, this was our fifth and last Malvern Challenge as we'll be too old next year, so it was really good to win". Knowle Sea Scouts also won the talent competition with a dance routine led by fifteen year old Rachel Newlands. For more information www.knowleseascouts.org.uk.

New style Appointment Cards

You will probably be aware that Warrants and Certificates of Appointment are soon to be replaced by new style Appointment Cards which will be issued to ALL adult members.

HQ will have informed all Members and Appointment holders what will be printed on their Appointment card through the June/July issue of Scouting, role titles and review dates being shown for all recorded appointments on the carrier sheet that came with the magazine. Adults should check that their details are correct and contact their District or County Secretary if they think that anything needs updating.

Scout Insurance

Scout Insurance Services Limited is now known as Unity Insurance Services. This is a trading name of Scout Insurance Services Limited and is a wholly owned subsidiary of The Scout Association. They now have a new website www.scoutinsurance.co.uk which offers information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, about all the policies they offer so that you can assess your needs and select a policy to suit you. If you would prefer to call them to discuss your needs there is now a lo-call telephone number 0845 0945 703

Prohibited and Restricted Campsite Directory

The Directory was last updated in 2003 and HQ are looking to update it again later this year and to make it easier to use by replacing the single long document with an on-line version where each County appears, and can be printed, on a separate page. The same idea is currently used for the National Directory of Waters which can be seen at www.scouts.org.uk/aboutus/activities/waterways/index.html

Until the new version is ready, copies of the 2003 edition can be obtained from HQ or from the County Secretary.

2nd Balsall Common Beavers sleep with the fishes!

Back in March, we were planning to have our second annual Beaver Sleepover at our HQ on Centenary Camp weekend (26th May). But then I found out about the BT sponsored Giant Sleepover – a record breaking attempt to get over 30 000 children sleeping over on the same night – 16th June. Not only would we be helping to break the record, there was also a sponsored 2 min simultaneous teeth-cleaning to raise money for Childline. So, we changed our plans and decided to take part.



Then, in early April, an email arrived to say that members of the Scout Association taking part in the Giant Sleepover could enter a draw to hold their event at a Sea Life Centre or one of the Dungeons. With nothing to lose I entered us in for the Birmingham Sea Life Centre – I never win anything! So imagine my shock when I received a call in mid May to say that we had been selected!

Suddenly life became more hectic. We had to arrange a visit to the Centre to meet the staff and decide where we were sleeping (in the theatre) and to plan the activities which the

centre staff would lay on for us. We also needed to carry out our own risk assessment and plan the logistics of getting leaders and Beavers from Balsall Common to the centre of Birmingham via the County Fun Day!

A couple of days before the event I took 3 Beavers to the Centre for a press call. We were interviewed for Heart FM and had our photos taken for the Birmingham Mail and Solihull

Observer. We also made the Solihull Times and the Solihull News.

On the night itself, we arrived at the Centre in time for tea. After the doors were locked, we had our

own private tour of the Centre and then made badges and masks. We also invested Josh Lowe as our newest Beaver. By the time the Beavers had made up their beds and got into their pyjamas it was time to settle down to a DVD. What else but "Finding Nemo"! They were all asleep by midnight and us weary leaders were asleep not long after – unlike the two Centre staff who had to stay awake all night!

On the Sunday morning the early risers were awake at 6, but stayed quiet until 7. Once our kit was packed away and we'd had breakfast, the very

tired Centre staff painted our faces with pictures of sea life



and gave us a last look round the Centre. Our last activity was the simultaneous teeth-cleaning record and then it was time to go home.

Across the Country, a record-breaking 38,000 young people took part. We contributed 17 of those, and we raised over £160 for Childline. It was a once in a lifetime experience for us all, but it couldn't have happened without the support of my fellow leaders Linda, Alison and Viv. Back to the Church Hall next year guys!

Shirley Brookes
BSL, 2nd Balsall Common
Scout Group

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Copy by the End of August Please