

Editors Bit

Thanks to all of you who send copy to us. It would be nice to get some stuff from other groups, if you do not send it to me I cannot put it in!

1st Marston Green Scout and Guide Band

Do you enjoy music? Are you committed to Scouting? Do you enjoy working with young people? Then you could be what we are looking for!



Marston Green's Scout Band originally formed in the 1960s, and welcomed members of the Guide Association in the early 1980s. Over the years it has become widely renowned, and has played at some important events such as the centenary of the NSPCC at the NEC, and for the Chief Scout at Hampton-in-Arden in the 1990s.

Today, although its membership has seen a decline, there is a strong core of committed adult members, who continue to practice weekly mainly for enjoyment. Numbers are maintained through the recruitment of a keen group of younger members from the Group. We continue to participate in parades mainly within the Group.

Marching bands are becoming a rare breed, and it would be wonderful if the future of our band could be guaranteed. We would welcome any new members or anyone interested in contributing to our efforts in any way.

Please email richard@richardforbes.wanadoo.co.uk

Water Activities

<http://www.scoutbase.org.uk/library/hqdocs/facts>

Is the place to look for 2 New Fact sheets:-
 FS120603 Aug/05 Edition no.6 Water Safety (incorporating Lifejackets and Buoyancy Aids)
 FS120629 June/05 Water Safety (Waterborne disease and immersion).

Cubjam 2005 Blacklands Farm, Sussex

As Whit week approached the excitement built, it was the first time that 11th Solihull Cubs had been on a weeks camp. We were going to join up with the Cubs from 10th Harpenden at the first Cubjam.

The idea of Cubjam was that it was a jamboree for Cubs. While we were the most northerly group, there were over 500 Cubs from Hampshire, Hertfordshire, Northamptonshire, Surrey, Sussex and many other southerly counties.

After a slight lull on Sunday afternoon as we put the tents up and recovered from a long drive, it was straight into the fun with an opening ceremony and music road show.

There was never any chance of the children complaining they were bored as the activities began. During the week the children participated in all the usual site activities: archery, climbing, abseiling, grass sledging, assault course, zip-wire, swimming (a must by Thursday!). There were also circus skills, a disco, cinema and campfire in the evenings.

The most popular event was the "It's a knock-out" contest. It was all the inflatables from the TV show, set up so that everyone had a go on everything.

We also went on 2 trips based on the theme of power.

The first was to Amberley Working Museum, which showed the development of power from the industrial revolution to today, with lots of things to press and try.

The second trip was down the Bluebell railway, which is a bit like the Severn Valley Railway.



The camp was a wonderful experience for all those that went and was organised by an excellent team from Hertfordshire. As leaders we only really had to worry about transport and food, so much of the pressure was taken off us.

We made lots of new friends, particularly within 10th Harpenden and had a fantastic time.

Solihull Gang Show '04 – 06

The Gang Show team hope to keep the friendship and fun from the last show alive and running so, if you want to be involved, Please do get in touch through this newsletter. If you want to get involved please speak to Andy or Iain I am sure that they would love to hear from you. The dates for the Show in 2006 are the week of the 26th Nov to 2nd December.

We are also looking at the best night for the evening

rehearsals (for Scouts, Guides, Explorers etc). We asked for input in the last newsletter but got no reply, if any of you have a view as to the night for midweek rehearsals please contact Andy on Solscoutnews@aol.com.

Sea Scouts Going for Gold

Six 15 year olds from Solihull have started to prepare for the trip of a lifetime, when they will be heading off to Canada next summer. The team from 4th Knowle Sea Scout Group will be undertaking a demanding ten day expedition by canoe and foot in one of the most remote areas of the world: Woodland Caribou Provincial Park in Ontario.

The expedition will contribute to their Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award, and they all then aspire to become Queen's Scouts. During and after the expedition, the team will undertake a series of environmental and community projects. Watch Leader Katie Newlands said "we're all really looking forward to the challenge of the expedition and the chance to hopefully make a difference to the environment and the communities out there". The team are also planning to visit Canadian Scouts, as well as Toronto and Niagara Falls.

The Sea Scouts have already started training, in everything from first aid to preventing bear attacks, as well as fundraising for the trip. The team are now looking for sponsorship from businesses and individuals to help them raise the money they need. If you're interested in finding out more, or would like to sponsor the team, please visit:

<http://www.solihullworld.co.uk/Canada2006.htm>

Drake ESU Summer Camp, Torquay Devon 31.8.05 – 4.9.05

Between the above dates 25 Scouts and two leaders from Drake Explorer Unit enjoyed the delights of Devon whilst on summer camp.

The camp site was located in Babbacombe Torquay, just 200 metres from the sea, and as we were the only campers on site, we had the view all to ourselves. Activities on camp ranged from visits to the local towns Torquay and Paignton, to horse riding lessons, surf and body-boarding at Bude, and riding the 'Zap-cat' and Slapton Sands.

The Zap-cat is a two person catamaran which can travel at up to 50 knots. The fact it can turn on a 'sixpence' puts the crew through 3-4g's when cornering at the speed it travels.

Due to the weather being very hot and sunny, much time was also spent on local beaches and swimming in the sea. One of the Scouts Jess Vuckovic became the first Solihull Explorer to be invested on Slapton Sands. An excellent camp made better when the only rain of the week started 20 minutes after the last tent was taken down to travel home.

Sea Scouts at Eurojam!

Nineteen Sea Scouts from Solihull have just returned from an action packed twelve days at the European Scout Jamboree held in Hylands Park, Essex. Eurojam was the largest Scout camp in the UK since 1957, attracting over 10,000 Scouts from 67 countries around the world.



The young people, all from Knowle Sea Scout Group, camped with Scouts from Portugal, Malta, France, Canada and Germany. They took part in a range of activities such as canoeing, caving and climbing, spent a day working at a residential care home for elderly people, and visited the home of Scouting at Gilwell Park. The Sea Scouts also met the Chief Scout Peter Duncan, partied the night away at rock concerts, learned how to make the planet a better place, met Scouts from all over the world and acquired new skills including juggling, languages, pioneering and crafts. The Sea Scouts were also selected to feature on BBC television, radio, and their website.

They all had a fantastic time and are already looking forward to spending the rest of the summer doing water sports, and getting ready for their next camp! Knowle Sea Scout Group is sponsored by the Royal Navy, and open to anyone aged 6 to 25. To find out more visit www.knowleseascouts.org.uk.

Solihull County Web site

Have you checked out the Solihull County website. on www.solihullscoutcounty.org.uk. Why not give it a try and tell us what you would like to see on the site and how you would like to use it. It is there for all of you so please do use it and tell us what you think.

Dear Auntie P

Why do the nights get so dark when we want to keep having fun at Beavers we have to do our activities indoors when it is dark I like stuff outside.

Bertie Beaver

Dear Bertie

I am afraid that that is the story of life, if it is fun, dangerous or interesting, it is either bad for you, or illegal, never mind it will get light in the spring

Newsletter Editor

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Articles for the next Newsletter by end October 2005, please