



## District Times: all the info for adults in Scouting

### Preparations underway for Madagascar challenge

TWENTY-TWO young people (19 from Gloucestershire, three from Cornwall) have taken on the challenge of the Explorer Belt Expedition to Madacasgar.

They will shortly be having their first Preparation Camp at

Cranham and are already fundraising for this once-in-a-lifetime trip in 2009. If anyone wishes to help with fundraising or has any brilliant ideas they would appreciate your suggestions.

The trip comprises a 10-day

expedition during which participants will meet new people and learn about their culture.

For more information see the county website, call Chris White on 07900 891511 or email Chris at [cwhitem@googlemail.com](mailto:cwhitem@googlemail.com)

# Committee needs you!

The District AGM has had to be postponed due to circumstances beyond our control - it will now be held, at a venue to be confirmed, on Wednesday September 17. Apologies for the postponement, but it does give people more time to consider one of the important items on the agenda - standing for election to the District Executive Committee.

The role of the District Executive Committee is 'to support the District Commissioner in meeting the responsibilities of the appointment, to manage the property and finances of the District and to provide support for Scout Groups and Explorer Scout Units in the District'.

This is an important part of Scouting and we welcome anyone who'd like to find out more about standing for election.

All members of executive committees are charity trustees, and that does carry certain responsibilities, including acting as reasonable people! We're happy to answer any questions and help explain exactly what the role demands.

If anyone would like to find out more please contact Anna King, District Commissioner, on 01981 500597 or e-mail [anna.king@stroudandtisburydistrict.org.uk](mailto:anna.king@stroudandtisburydistrict.org.uk)

● The Annual Census for 2008 showed a net **continued on p.8**



**ARISE SIR NIKOLAI : turn to page 3 to find out where and why Scout Nikolai swapped his uniform for a suit of German armour . . .**



## Dates for your diary

### 11 June

District Scout / Explorer  
Scout Link Event for Scouts  
and Explorer Scouts

### June 19

7.15 Pennwood. Training -  
Module 3 'Tools for the  
Job'. All section leaders and  
section assistants are  
required to complete  
this module. For more  
details or to reserve a place  
please contact Gail Cooke  
on 01453 834780 or 0777  
949 8883 or email  
cooke.36@tiscali.co.uk

### 20 June

District Fishing Competition  
Cub Scouts / Scouts

### 27-29 June

Malvern Challenge

### 29 June

District Beaver Scouts' Fun  
and Friends Day

### 3 July

Child protection, training for  
all Adults in Scouting.  
Pennwood, 7.15pm. If you  
have not yet attended a full  
Child Protection course this  
could be the opportunity to  
do so. It is also an  
opportunity to update your  
previous training and put it  
towards your ongoing  
learning. Please contact  
Gail Cooke as above to  
book a place.

### 4-6 July

Sun Run (for Explorer  
Scouts)

### 10 July

District Cub Scout Leaders  
Meeting - Pennwood

### 12-19 July

Visit of Dutch Scouts to  
Cranham - District units  
have links to this group and  
we'll recommend some  
Explorer activities at the  
next Leaders Meeting to  
welcome them.

### 17 July

Scout Fellowship Meeting  
and Barbecue Fellowship

### 19-20 July

Water Weekend at Fairford  
Scout Headquarters

### 20 August

Kids Outdoors Activity Day  
at Cranham

### 6-7 September

The Gilwell Reunion

### 10 September

Gilwell Open Day (for  
Group Scout Leaders).  
Details from Tricia on  
tricia.edwards@scout.org.uk  
or tel: 020 8433 7131.

### 17 September

District AGM - everyone's  
welcome to come and have  
their say. Venue to be  
confirmed.

## Rosie's tale of foreign travel

**My German Scouting Adventure  
by Rosie Duckworth, 11,  
Wycliffe Scout Group**

**After check-in at Bristol Airport,  
we finally were on the plane. All of  
us were excited about going  
abroad. We left Bristol in the snow  
and arrived in Germany to sun and  
wind, where we caught a train.**

**We arrived at Burg Rieneck (a  
castle dating back to 1150, now  
owned by the VCP Scout  
Association in Germany). We  
were keen and eager to explore  
and find out where we were  
sleeping. After a quick supper we  
went to bed, anticipating the  
adventures that lay ahead of us.**

**Over the next jam-packed five  
days we visited and learnt about  
the area around Burg Rieneck.**

**My highlights included going to  
the Fort in Wurzburg and seeing a  
horse's swimming pool, a prison,  
a 203-metre deep well and the  
graves of 25 Prince Bishops. Also,  
Frances and Nikolai dressed up  
with the help of the museum staff,  
with Nikolai as a knight in armour  
and Frances as his elegant Lady.**

**We also went on a picturesque  
hike in the snow and had a  
knights' tournament where we  
made big catapults, did jousting,  
crossbows and ten pin bowling.  
My favourite bit was the jousting.  
We fell off quite a bit but it was  
still great fun.**

**We also discovered more about  
the historic industries of the area.**

**We ended our trip celebrating  
Frances' 9th birthday with a big  
cake, but before we knew it we  
were packed and on the flight  
back to Bristol! Thank you to all  
the leaders, helpers and everyone  
at Burg Rieneck for making this  
trip fun, exciting and memorable.**



# German adventure proves wunderbar!

A GROUP of 24 Cub Scouts and Scouts from Nailsworth Scout Group and Wycliffe College Scout Group have just returned from a week-long visit to the Spessart area of Germany.

The group flew out to Frankfurt and after exploring the historic part of this old city continued by train to a Scouting Centre based in a 14th century castle in the small village of Rieneck in the Spessart Forest.

During their visit the group enjoyed a wide range of visits and activities to discover more about the area in which they were staying, including a visit to the world heritage sites of the Fort and Residence in the city of Wurzburg, and learning more about the local industries past and present in the town of Lohr.

A hike through the surrounding countryside in the snow added to the adventure, as did exploring the castle, meeting local German Scout Leaders, trying local foods and using public transport!

During a visit to the Main Franconian Museum one of the Scouts even found himself being



**HOME FROM HOME:** the castle at Burg Rieneck.

dressed in a genuine suit of armour from the time knights defended the fort at Wurzburg, while others were able to practice their German in shops and enjoy the excitement of foreign travel.

District Commissioner for Stroud and Tetbury District, Anna King, who took part in the visit, said: 'We were made very welcome by the German Scout Association.

'Scouting is all about trying new things while having a great time with your friends, and that's exactly what we spent a week doing while we were in Germany. For many of the children this was the first time they'd been abroad or flown in a plane, which added to the adventure!'

Scout Kye Moore, 11, from Nailsworth, said:

**ENJOYING THE ADVENTURE:** the plane trip was part of the fun, as was exploring the historic castle.

'It's not possible to say what the best bit of the trip was: it was all just amazing. We went to so many different places and did so many different things, and I've certainly learnt a lot about Germany!'



## HQ Awards

During the past year the following Headquarters Awards have been made to leaders in the Stroud and Tetbury District recognising the outstanding contribution they have made to Scouting in their local area.

The Award for Merit, a cloth emblem with a green knot would normally be awarded after a period of not less than 12 years, but exceptionally after 10 years of outstanding service while holding adult appointments.

A Chief Scout's Commendation for Good Service, a white and yellow knot cloth badge, is awarded for good service while holding adult appointments for a period of not less than five years.

### Award for Merit

Mrs J M Simmonds BSL,  
Randwick, Stroud & Tetbury -  
December 2007

Adrian Clive Holloway  
ASL, Eastcombe, Stroud &  
Tetbury - February 2008

Mrs Dorothy 'Anne' Greaves  
GSL, Severnside, Stroud &  
Tetbury - March 2008

Miss Anna Louise King District  
Commissioner, Stroud & Tetbury  
- April 2008

Nigel John Moore AGSL,  
Eastcombe - April 2008

### Chief Scout's Commendation

Mrs Jacqueline Bowers  
ACSL, Eastcombe, Stroud &  
Tetbury - February 2008

Mrs Denise Eileen Gifford  
ABSL, Randwick, Stroud &  
Tetbury - February 2008

Mrs Denise Barbara Westerman  
ABSL 2nd Rodborough, Stroud  
& Tetbury - February 2008



**ACTIVITY  
BASE:  
Scouts  
enjoy the  
challenge  
course at  
Cranham.**

# Cranham: more than camping

CRANHAM has so much more to offer than just camping and accommodation, as a group of Scouts from Nailsworth discovered at the beginning of this month when they spent an activity day at the site.

During their visit they enjoyed the challenge course in The Grove, the traversing wall, fire-lighting and a hike.

Also this month Scouts from Cranham Village visited the site for an evening meeting, using the area for a series of problem-solving bases as part of the

Creative Challenge Badge. A group of Cub Scouts also used the area to practice their compass skills.

Why not consider Cranham as a venue for an evening meeting or an activity day for your section, as well as the excitement of going somewhere different and trying something new?

Ken and his staff at the centre can give you a lot of advice in planning your visit and offer you facilities and resources for a wealth of activities.

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## Bring a friend to outdoor activity

Kids outdoors is a new activity being held at the County Scouting Centre in Cranham. The next day will be August 20 when Beavers, Cubs and Scouts (boys and girls) will be invited to 'bring a non-scouting friend' aged 7 to 12.

Only 40 places are available so book early. The sessions cost £20 per child for the day, and a £5 deposit (non-returnable) is requested. The session lasts from 8.30am to 4.30pm, and all children attending will receive a free goodie bag. Participants should bring a packed lunch (drinks and snacks will be provided), any current medication, and wear old clothes, as some of the activities may be muddy!

For details contact [admin@gloucestershire-scouts.org.uk](mailto:admin@gloucestershire-scouts.org.uk) or phone 01452 812 309.



# Cooking up a storm at camp



TEAMS from Stroud and Tetbury District were joined by others from The Malverns for this year's District Camping and Camp Cooking Competition.

The weekend event took place at Warren Oak Scout Campsite near Ledbury where each team of four Scouts was allocated a camping area and assessed throughout the weekend. The Scouts all produced some excellent food in the cooking sections of the events including home-made soups, fish dishes, cheesecakes and pasta, and one team even produced a full roast dinner cooked over an open fire.

At the end of a very competitive weekend the winning team came from Nailsworth Scout Troop, closely followed by the team from 1st Malvern Link Scout Troop.

Left: Etienne Millward from Nailsworth Scout Troop prepares to cook breakfast

Over the Bank Holiday weekend, 12 Explorer Scouts enjoyed a two-night camp with their leaders in the Forest of Dean. Camping in Lydney Deer Park, the Explorer Scouts enjoyed learning basic camping skills, orienteering, firelighting, preparing fresh rabbits and making stew, and the adventure of a local high ropes course. Our pictures show rabbit stew being prepared and cooked.



## Knowing the ropes on badge weekend

A RECENT COUNTY Badge Course Weekend included the option to complete the Pioneer Badge. Alex, a Scout from Rodborough was on the course, and tells us about it . . .

'I attended a badge weekend at the County Scouting Centre in Cranham. There were three courses to choose

from: Emergency Aid, Modeller and Pioneer. I decided to do the pioneer badge which included learning all the knots and lashings, building a swing and a type of catapult.

'We also did a range of indoor projects which included splicing (making a rope thicker to stop it from fraying), whipping (to stop a rope from fraying),

and mini pioneering with small green sticks.

'We also had a board in the room we were using, which had all the knots and lashings on it. It had our names on it so that when we learnt one and the instructor was satisfied we would put a sticker by our name under whichever one we had learnt.'



# Can you help keep Shop?

MORE HELP is urgently needed to keep the District Scout Shop running.

The Shop, at the Leonard Stanley Scout HQ in Downton Road, Leonard Stanley, provides: scouting uniform to members of Scouting across the district; resources for leaders and young people in all sections; camping equipment (to order); and a range of gift and presentation items.

The shop is also currently offering leaders the chance to order badges and adult resources online, making it quicker and easier to receive and pay for orders.

And an item of particular interest at the moment is the Stroud and



Tetbury District's Official Photobook for 2007. This 30-page photobook celebrates our centenary year with pages of photographs from the District's events and celebrations throughout 2007. A draft copy can be viewed in the Scout Shop, and copies can be ordered in the shop

It's a very important service that's offered to parents, and the profit means we can keep the capitation down for all.

If you'd like to help in any way please contact us via email at [scoutshop@stroudandtetburydistrict.org.uk](mailto:scoutshop@stroudandtetburydistrict.org.uk)

or by post.

Opening hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 6 to 8pm during term time, plus the first Saturday of each month (June 7 and July 5). The Shop will close for the summer holiday on Thursday July 17 and reopen on Saturday September 6.

The trading surplus from the District Scout Shop is all used to support Scouting in Stroud and Tetbury District.

## Leader will be sadly missed

IT IS with great sadness that we have to announce the passing away of Renata Jezewski, Beaver leader with Amberley Scout Group in Stroud and Tetbury.

Renata joined Amberley Scout Group in April 2004 and was a dedicated leader who worked tirelessly for the young people of Amberley to give them the best possible Scouting experience. She loved the outdoors and believed that every child should have the opportunity to experience its wonder for themselves.

A remarkable individual, Renata will be sadly missed by the Beaver Scouts and their parents, and by everyone who worked with her.

## Cavers come out clean!

TWENTY-THREE Scouts from across Gloucestershire and Middlesex descended on three cave systems in the Forest of Dean for the recent County Caving Weekend.

Ben Crane from Amberley, Jonathan Hodgson from Tetbury, Keelan Tootell from Dursley and Lyle Tregoring from Eastcombe were the District Scouts taking part.

Operating from Beaver Lodge we visited Old Ham Iron Mine and Bixhead Stone Mine on the Saturday and Noxon Park Iron Mine on the Sunday. Unfortunately the mines were drier than usual and the scouts emerged nearly as clean as when they went in, much to the disappointment of the sadists in the Leader team!

Saturday evening saw a visit to Gloucestershire Cave Rescue Group HQ where the scouts were given a presentation on some of the accidents and incidents attended by the group in recent years and were then set to work in pairs in a reconstruction hoisting a casualty out of a cave and to safety (the casualty was a rescue-aid dummy so there was no danger of making the injuries worse). It was a thoroughly enjoyable weekend for everybody concerned.

## Cubs' visit to Victory

Over 150 Stroud and Tetbury Cubs, leaders and parents went to Portsmouth in April. We visited HMS Victory and HMS Dolphin, the submarine museum, and enjoyed a harbour trip. Everything got done, on a tight schedule. Thanks to Ann Larkcom for organising the whole day.



## Camp report

Minchinhampton and  
Rodborough Cub Camp, Penn  
Wood, May 2-4th 2008.  
Report by Jonathan van Dyk

When I arrived the first thing I did was unpack my bags and put them in the hut. When everyone had arrived we pitched our tents. Minchinhampton finished first but ours was a three-pod tent so I would be surprised if we finished first. Afterwards, we raised the flag then we went inside our tents for quiet time, and James came round with activity books.

The next thing I remember was James telling us a story. We then played a game with a bouncy ball where you had to do the opposite to the instruction. For example, if he said "header it" you had to catch it and if he said "catch it" you had to header it.

Next it was supper time so we all tucked into hamburgers and hot dogs which was yummy. Then we went to sleep.

On the second day at Cub camp we had breakfast of bacon sandwiches (yummy). Then we packed our lunches to have at the secret location and went on a walk, answering questions on a sheet on the way. We brought sticks for the fire then we played the opposite game before singing songs. Then (my favourite part) we cooked the dampers on the campfire which made my eyes water, it was so hot.

On the third day we had a breakfast of toast, cornflakes or rice crispies before playing the last wide game. We came back making puppets for our puppet shows. We made our reflection hands and wrote on them then performed our puppet shows (my favourite was the Harry Potter one). Then we gave out badges before packing to go home.

# Scouting Day for all ages

On 17 May over 350 members of Scouting aged from six to 25, along with friends and parents, enjoyed an afternoon of games and activities at the District's Scouting Centre at Pennwood.

Now established as an annual event in the district calendar, this year the open day buzzed with the excitement of young people enjoying the great outdoors. There was something for everyone, from the aerial runway, crate stacking, archery and orienteering, to discovery of nature with the Gloucestershire



**District Chairman  
on the ropes!**

Wildlife Trust, mini pioneering, cooking over an open fire, and much more.

Cub Scouts and Scouts from Nailsworth and Wycliffe and Scouts from Minchinhampton, stayed on to camp overnight.

Thank you to the Pennwood Committee for organising the day, and to the Scouts who helped set up and take down some of the activities.



**Above: Minchinhampton Scouts  
cook bread twists. Left: James  
Davies enjoys looking down on  
big brother Tom.**

## Cub families go walking

The Cub Scout section held their annual District family walk at the end of March, covering a circular route from Randwick to Whiteshill via Ruscombe. Ten packs took part with 150 walkers tackling the route in ideal conditions.

Thanks to Colin Clatworthy for organising the day, to Ann Larkcom for the refreshments, and to Randwick and Whiteshill groups for use of HQs.

Ben, a Cub Scout from Rodborough, reports: 'We started at Randwick Scout Hut and walked up lots of narrow paths, through fields and over lots of stiles. We had to lift my little sister over the stiles in her pushchair. We walked through lots of mud.

'The walk was five miles long and we had to read instructions and follow a map to find our way.

'It took us about three-and-a-half hours to get back to the Scout hut and then we had a hot dog.

'It was a very warm and sunny day and I really enjoyed it.'

## Soccer success

TEN packs entered the Cub Soccer competition held at Stonehouse in May. The weather was good - a bit too warm even! - and the event went well, with Minchinhampton emerging as winners, ahead of runners-up Randwick, and Tetbury in third place.



**IN THE BALANCE:** youngsters enjoy a canoeing game at Longridge.

# Water workout!

During half-term, 64 Cub Scouts and Scouts from across the district came together at Longridge near Marlow for the District Water Activities Camp.

Heavy rain meant the River Thames was flowing fast and rising, so water activities on the main river were called off on safety grounds. However they were still possible in the backwater, so once the Scouts, who travelled to Longridge by train, had pitched their tents they were kayaking, and tackling the climbing wall and assault course.

The first night was punctuated by a thunderstorm and more rain, but the sun shone next day for the Cub Scouts to arrive and join in raft building and kayaking.

The rest of the week was spent with more activities including cooking, camp fires, hikes, photo quiz and wide games. Added to all this was the daily excitement of the river getting closer to the campsite!

All too soon the end of the camp arrived and everyone helped with packing up before returning home after a very busy (wet) week!

## More details from the district

**From p.1**  
increase of 22 members, with the Beaver Scout section showing the greatest increase. There are currently 73 young people on waiting lists, of whom 45 are for Beaver Scouts. Mary Jones has taken on the job of contacting people who are interested in joining Scouting.

● All GSLs have been asked to think about plans for the future development of their Groups; this information will assist in the preparation of a new District Development Plan.

● Joan Goldsmith has now taken on the role of Chairman of the District Appointments Sub-committee.

● The date of the Public Inquiry into the claimed Bridleways at Pennwood has been fixed for August 19. A consultation will be carried out this summer to help guide the future development strategy for Pennwood.