



Northampton District

News

Edition: September 2007

NEWS FROM THE DC

Well the September newsletter brings me writing for the first time as the District Commissioner, which I will say is not a job that I had envisaged me doing at the start of this year. I only hope that I will live up to the expectations that people have entrusted me with and thank you for your emails following this announcement.

I can promise that I will do my best to ensure that we move forward together. Whatever the ups and downs of life in Northampton District Scouts brings we need to keep our focus on providing the best possible Scouting for as many young people as possible.

Firstly can I say a big thank you to the previous district team and their key role in bringing back together Northampton District, which I believe has given us all good foundations for our future.

As you are aware, having been responsible for Operations within the district for the last 6 months, this has given me a good insight into the issues facing the future of the district and where a DC's priorities should be.

We like the rest of the country have taken part in the centenary year of scouting, this has given us all the opportunity to reflect on what the Scout movement has achieved over the last 100 years, and to reflect on our history. However as the year comes to an end the focus nationally is about the future, where now?, how do we ensure that we sustain and keep growing this movement, making scouting in Northampton bigger and better! And this is what we must now do as a district.

The district has much history but we need to focus on the future and face the modern challenges presented to us, we can not dwell on how things have previously been and the success of our past scouting and assets, but work towards a new vision with a strong and support leadership team.

For those of you who may be wondering what the main focus of my time will be, I have summarised what I see are key priorities:

- **Providing support to the Scout Group and the Sections that make it up.**

We have a large adult membership in Northampton District but already I have been working with groups who are short of adult support. It is simple, the group and sections they provide are the foundation of the movement and must be actively supported, with this in mind my aspiration is that adults will work within sections as their priority, additional activities should be secondary to this important and vital role.

I will be asking all people to work at some point during the year within a Section and if you do not already do this then it would make my first few weeks easier if you could think about which Group or Section you will be working with. Some of our stalwart members who have long ago given up their regular weekly meeting can be excited by the fun, adventure and challenge that our Sections provide and offer valuable skills that are sometimes sadly missing from our programmes.

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The first Group Scout Leaders meeting will be held on the 1st October and at this meeting the initial decisions will be taken by this group to shine a light towards the direction that we will be moving in.

The district are also providing a young persons support team, whereby we are reintroducing an advisors role for each of the 4 sections. Details of this role will be made clear in future newsletters and at the first district ICE meeting.

- **The District assets should support sections and groups and their core activities.**

I challenge everyone to ensure that ALL of our young people go away between now and August 2008 and have an adventure. Obviously the adventures of our younger members will be very different to our older Sections but should still fire the imagination of everyone to ensure that they simple cannot wait for the next trip and all that this will bring. Young people join us to have that adventure and they leave us when we do not live up to their expectations.

It is our duty to ensure that we do not let these expectations down. We can only see which sections go away it is you who know which young people are part of your events and ensure that we target those young people who seem reluctant to take part. I hope that by 2008 all 1800 people that make up the District will have taken part in at least one Scouting night away.

- **Communication, communication!**

As I said at the start the growth and development of this district is not a solo career or role, it is a team effort and we are hoping improvements to the district website, newsletters, introduction of ICE Meetings, Advisors roles and resource centre (all detailed in this newsletter) will provide this valuable service.

Enough from me for this time our attention is now the **development of our young people** and the **activities** that enable this and I hope that we will all unite to support this as we travel along together.

Steve

DISTRICT CHAIRPERSON REPORT

A fabulous summer

What a fantastic summer the summer of 2007 has been. No of course I do not mean the weather; it has been a fabulous summer for what Scouting is about - young people doing a huge variety of activities and having a fantastic time. For me summer started with the excellent Centenary Camp. Now you definitely know I do not mean the weather. If it had been a sunny dry weekend we would have had a great time but it would already be forgotten. Because of the adverse conditions and everyone pulling together I still hear the young people talking about it.

Our summer long birthday party has I feel been a great success. Groups have spent some excellent Nights away, summer camps, beaver sleep overs the works. Some have even travelled to Holland and Belgium and other exotic locations such as Essex where they had the shock of meeting my father. I thought the idea of an 8 am Sunrise silly before the event. I was wrong. Our District Event in Abington Park was fantastic. Well done and thanks to team for all the hard work. What a fabulous spectacle, and so much joy and laughter. The other sun rise ceremonies including in the tree tops of Salcey Forest sounded fantastic. I think the image of Scouting this District presented was excellent.

This district was represented by 16 young people at the World Scout Jamboree at Highlands Park and numerous others worked their socks off on the International Service Team. The jamboree was clearly a fantastic life changing experience. Thanks to all of them for representing us so well and thanks to

all that made it possible including those that took them and those that helped them raise funds. Again the publicity was excellent. I am sure like me you felt proud to see such positive publicity.

The Band had a wonderful trip to the Royal Marine Band Summer School and NEAT yet again held the Balloon Festival together, and as ever it was the usual stalwarts who manned the HQ trailer to try to recruit members/leaders. It is a shame that the weather and the £4 fee kept the festival numbers down.

It is a shame with so much to celebrate and so much fabulous activity for the young people that the bulk of my time as District Chairman seems to be taken up dealing with disagreements between adults. This week one Network member told me that he wanted to be a leader because he wanted leaders to be people that did things not moaned about it. We all know that his perception is not true and that leaders work incredibly hard to make Scouting work but I so wish we could cut down on the politics.

I hope that by the time you read this a new DC will have been announced. Whoever that emerges to be it is important that we give them our support. The last few months just supporting the team covering the role have shown me how hard a job it is and how thank less. Please lets all unite behind him or her.

NEW ICE MEETINGS INTRODUCED.

I would like to invite you to the first of our **District ICE evenings.** I hope that these will produce a thaw in our communication problems. ICE stands for :

IDEAS, COMMUNICATION AND EXCELLENCE EVENINGS.

The first of these is to be held on 11th October at 7:30pm at Fernie Fields.

The evening will start with **IDEAS** - a presentation by Steve Tilley about the John Askew Memorial Caving network planned for Overstone and also asking your views on his idea for a High Ropes course. We are intentionally starting with this as I hope there will be a big enough turnout for Steve to have a good audience and get feedback on his ideas. I hope this section will be where members fly kites for ideas to see whether the wider membership can offer any thoughts. Such ideas would still need to go through the normal channels but I hope involving more people earlier in the discussions might improve ownership.

We will then move onto the **EXCELLENCE** section of the evening. Here I hope we will celebrate success, acknowledge achievements and say thank you. We already have a whole load of wood badges to present I hope we can add to these Chief Scout Awards, D of E, indeed any significant awards in any section, Length of Service Awards, HQ awards and Thanks Badges. Of course these should still be presented in groups and sections but where's the harm in saying thanks twice and publicly? I hope families and friends might come to see this and join in the well deserved applause.

After refreshments when younger people and families may want to escape I hope the **COMMUNICATION** session will be an informal opportunity to chat through forthcoming events, ideas and issues and supplement the GSL/ District Team meetings as a route for improving communication.

Please put the date in your diary and GSLs etc please let me know of any awards you have to be presented.

Thanks again to everyone for all the hard work

Simon.

centenary of
scouting2007



Well we are now officially in the new centenary of scouting, and as the celebrations for the year come to an here we will reflect on the two events run through the summer holiday period.

If you have any photo's of events to celebrate the centenary of scouting that you would like to share with the rest of the district make sure you share them with the district media team as we will make them available on the website for members.



Sunrise 8am
August 1st
Abington Park.

Well after the weather so far for the national events, what a fantastic and unexpected morning we had during the sunrise event.

Starting at Abington Park at 7.30, those groups and sections whom were not already at camp joined the rest of the district for the sunrise event, with almost all groups within the district sending a least one section. Music and games started the morning, then County Commissioner John Simmons completed the renewal of promises and then we had a district breakfast in the park! With Cereals and sandwiches, tea and drinks, we had plenty left too and all this was kindly donated to us from local supplies UniQ, Weetabix, Panda pops, Strathclyde waters, to mention a few.

Even the birthday cake was donated so well done to the organisers. Each young person and adult also received a goody bag with a selection of jellybeans, drinks and prizes.

Group photos as a memento of the event, are available and will be circulated to groups, alongside their certificates of attendance at the

centenary Camp. What is left to say thank you to you all for making it a memorable event.

SAINSBURY'S AND SCOUTING.

Sainsbury's will be welcoming Scout Groups into their stores from 3rd – 9th October 2007, as part of a new 'Scout Community Week'. During the week, Scout Groups will be invited to raise money and awareness of what Scouting is about in 400 Sainsbury's stores nationwide.

This is an excellent opportunity to shout about Scouting in local communities and attract adults and young people to the adventure as well as raising much needed funds for local Scouting.

Recruitment opportunities

To aid you in your recruitment of both adults and young people, The Scout Association has produced a set of four banners in association with Sainsbury's and v.

It has been agreed that these banners will be used by all Scout Groups taking part in Community Week to ensure consistency of approach across Sainsbury's stores'. The first three banners include messages about volunteering opportunities for 16-25 year olds as this is the age range that v has pledged to target. The final banner promotes both youth and adult Membership opportunities. These are available from the DC.

Fundraising opportunities

There are a number of fundraising opportunities you can take advantage of. These include:

- Bag packing
- Litter picking
- Bucket collections (you are likely to collect more money if you indicate that

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the money is going to a specific project). Please note only Scouts over 16 are legally allowed to fundraise in this way.

- Accompanied shops – finding items for customers as they do their shopping
- Pushing trolleys for elderly people/people with children etc
- Competitions such as guess how many woggles in a jar (pay to guess)
- For Explorer and Network – car washing and taking shopping to cars

The events has been circulated to GSL's to ascertain the number of groups that would like to take part in this opportunity and this will then be co-ordinated at district level with participating stores within the area.

Sunday 7th October 2007
7.00 pm

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

ENTERTAINS!

THE CASTLE THEATRE

WELLINGBOROUGH

The best of Northamptonshire's Scouting talent on stage to support the Scouts and Guides taking part in the finale to Centenary Year Live'07 at the O2 Arena in Greenwich

Tickets just £5.95 from the Castle Box Office
01933 270007

DISTRICT ACTIVITY NEWS.

Nights away

As of April 07, All NAN forms are to be sent to ADC Activities Paul Joyce, who has also

created the link below so that Nights Away Notifications are as easy as possible when doing them online.

<http://northamptondistrictscouts.co.uk/contact-s-form-nan.shtml>

OCEAN EXPLORER 2008

Scout Section Expedition to Croatia

There are still some young peoples places left for the scout section expedition to Croatia, in 2008. If you have any young person whom is still interested in taking part in this international activity in 2008, then please contact me, lee@jones87.fsnet.co.uk or calling me on 01604 845325

For further details.

Lee Jones

Scout Section Rep – Ocean Explorer 2008

Explorer Section Tall Ships Expedition.

During the summer holidays those young people whom have been successful in gaining a place on the tall ship challenge for 2008, have been notified, and a parents meeting took place on the 2nd September. There are 96 young people from the county taking part in this adventure next year, 39 of which are from Northampton District.

Also during the summer applications for becoming an adult leader on the event was circulated to DC's and GSL. If you are interested Contact Me Paul Joyce on paul@ukscouts.net, 07886 520 476 or 07974 254 122.

For more info about the ocean explorer events and activities during 2008, Why not visit the website:

Email us at: Northamptoncommunication@ukscouts.net

www.oceanexplorer2008.org.uk

Arch Ball

Two teams face each other about a metre apart. Each persons feet are shoulder width apart, right foot of one player touching the left foot of the other, etc., all bending forwards, and a football is thrown into the alley. If the ball goes through a players legs the team loses a point (start at 10 or so), game ends when one team is knocked out. Knees must be kept as straight as possible, a fast and exciting game. Variation for larger groups - four teams in a square, when one team is knocked out three teams then forms a triangle, then an alley as above.

Ideal for: Scout Section
Taken from: Sixty Indoor Games For Scouts.

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DISTRICT ASSETS

During the summer break of scouting the District Executive with the management team have been dealing with a number of issues that have occurred in relation to security, with this in mind a review of security on all district owned assets have been completed in line with security services and the police.

One of the most significant changes to happen as a priority to our security is the changing of access keys to the Overstone site and the introduction of a district key policy.

The significant parts of this are that:

- All GSL have been allocated with one key for the main gates/toilet blocks at Overstone.
- This key is a restricted access key, which means that they can not be copied.
- Additional keys are requested via the district executive who will consider the case you give them. (every key costs the district £5.35)

- All keys remain the property of NDSC, and on leaving a role all keys to property are returned to the district and will only be reallocated once a contract is signed between the exec and the key holder.
- Breaches of the key policy will be considered as breaches to the child protection policy and district security policy and will result in disciplinary actions.

There are a number of other recommendations in relation to security on both sites that the district will implement throughout the year and you will be updated on in the newsletter. A full copy of the Security policy can be viewed on the district website, if you have any questions.



DISTRICT COMMUNICATIONS

Have you checked out the district website recently? Well the new look website is now completed, and information is building on the website, Eventually you will also be able to book facilities on line also.

Also we have a developing Resource Centre and Adventure Centre, at the Scout Shop Ivy Road. They have a dedicated room with an Internet connected computer so that everyone has access to Scout base, the district website, the new Programmes on line service and scout info centre.

A photocopier and laminator are also available to assist you with getting information and programmes out to your sections.

Copies of all scouting resources such as scouting essentials, HQ recruitment packs, Fact sheets, POR, District Newsletters, Scouting magazine to name a few, there is also a constant supply of tea and coffee.

There will also be available booking forms for district assets/events, AA forms CRB form, PLP's & training packs.

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You know we are the primary location for Scout uniform, clothing and merchandise.

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ADVENTURE CENTRE.
Stocking sleeping bags, roll matts,
rucksacs

**A one-stop shop for the scouting
adventure. Check us out first for a really
competitive Price.**

Opening Hours

Mon. & Wed. 7-00 till 8-30pm

Sat. 10-00am till 4-00pm

Susan Wray	11th	Wood Badge Training Advisor
Kay Aitken	Explorers	

Service Awards

Louise Temple	34th	5 Years
Melanie Wyatt	Fellowship	10 Years
David Chandler	Fellowship	10 Years
David Barnett	Fellowship	15 Years
Susan Graystone	23rd	15 Years
Sara Giles	27th	10 Years
Philippa Moore	50th	15 Years
Karen Bazeley	16th	5 Years
Angela Wright	5th	5 Years
Roy Cartmale	13th	10 Years
Pam Wooton	49th	5 Years

ROLL OF HONOUR

On behalf of Northampton District Scouts, we take this opportunity to record our sincere thanks for those who have received the following much deserved awards throughout the last period:

Appointments/Provisional Certificates

Audrey Pearce	GSL	43rd
Christina Hallam	CA	2nd
Dominic O'Reilly	ACSL	43rd
Garreth Davey	AESL	District
Adam Brimacombe	AESL	District
Brenda Faulkner	ABSL	22nd
Tracey Smith	ASL	49th
Damian Lang	ASL	46th
Alex Phillpott	AESL	District
Paul Hardwick	TA	23rd
Karen Snell	ASL	30th

Training Awards

Caroline O'Donnoll	46th	Wood Badge
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NORTHAMPTON DISTRICT DIARY 2007

Thursday 6 th Sept 07	Trustee training	7 pm	Simon Gregory
Thursday 6 th Sept 07	Executive Committee Meeting	7.30pm	Simon Gregory
Monday 1 st October 07	GSL Meeting		Steve Layt
Thurs 11 th October 07	ICE event	7pm Fernie Fields	Simon Gregory.
Thursday 18 th Oct 07	Executive Committee Meeting	7.30pm	Simon Gregory
Sun 11 th Nov 07	Remembrance Service	10am All Saints	District Team
Saturday 24 th Nov	National LIVE 07 Event,	Greenwich	National Event.
Thursday 6 th Dec 07	Executive Committee Meeting	7.30pm	Simon Gregory
Thursday 17 th Jan 2008	Executive Committee Meeting	7.30pm	Simon Gregory
Thursday 20 th March 2008	Executive Committee Meeting	7.30pm	Simon Gregory
Sat 17 th May 08	District Activity Day	All Day Overstone	
Thursday 13 th June 2008	Executive Committee Meeting	7.30pm	Simon Gregory
Thursday 26 th June 2008	Trustee training	7 pm	Simon Gregory
Thursday 26 th June 2008	Executive Committee Meeting	7.30pm	Simon Gregory

DISTRICT NEWSLETTER 2007

Edition	Deadline for Submissions	Publication Date
5	Fri - 24 th Aug 2007	Mon – Sept 3 rd 2007
6	Fri - 26 th Oct 2007	Mon – Nov. 5 th 2007
7	Fri - 21 st Dec 2007	Mon – Jan 7 th 2008
8	Fri - 22 nd Feb. 2007	Mon - Mar 5 th 2007
9	Fri - 26 th April 2007	Mon – May 5 th 2007
10	Fri - 20 th Jun 2007	Mon – July 7 th 2007

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