



Ripon & District News Update

December 2008

Thank you

- * to Andrew Roberts and the many other Beaver leaders and helpers who made the Beaver Scout Day such a big success just recently
 - * to Anne Collins for organising the District Swimming Gala at Ripon Spa Baths: never an easy job, but she did it brilliantly, as usual!
 - * to the Explorer Scouts (including a host of Young Leaders, some of them recent recruits to the team) who continue to help at, and support, all our District events - much appreciated!
 - * Jamie Slator, Boroughbridge Scout, for bravely volunteering to be uniformed bugler at the Kirby Hill Remembrance Day Service
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Congratulations

- to Boroughbridge Group on winning the District Swimming Gala - well done!
 - to the nine District leaders who completed their First Response training in November. According to my records, *all* leaders in the District now have a First Aid qualification, which is excellent!
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New Leaders

Stuart Wallace of 4th Ripon is in the process of moving up from the ESU to being an adult leader in the Group, which is good news. The District is keen to enrol young men and women as leaders *before* they go to university, if they wish; they are also encouraged to join Network

Training

We have a new County Training Manager, Major Mark John. He is very keen to re-establish Adult Leader Training in the County, so prepare for developments over the next couple of months, including a range of courses for 2009 to be announced soon

In the District, there is a "Getting Started" course in Boroughbridge on Saturday, December 13th, 9 am to 12 noon - ask me for details

The next Young Leader training evening (Mod B) is on December 4th, 7.30 pm

Reminders

Uniform

Could I ask leaders to wear full uniform on the evenings when their Sections meets, unless it really is a matter of dashing to the meeting straight from work and uniform is just not possible *on that occasion*? We are a uniformed organisation and expect youngsters to be in uniform. There is a gentle irony in leaders having a "uniform inspection" while perhaps wearing only odd *elements* of the uniform themselves; but, seriously, folks, this is not acceptable!

Census

Yes, the Annual Census is on the horizon once again, a headache for Secretaries and GSLs in particular. Why not check your entry on My Backpack (access and register using your membership number) to confirm your details are correct? Let me know if there are any omissions on My Backpack; also if any names should be removed and appointments cancelled, for whatever reason. By the way, I know that we are going to carry out the Census with *absolute integrity* in R & D.

First Aid

Leaders are reminded that it is a Scout Association requirement (not an option) that an adequate First Aid Kit should be available both in your regular place of meeting AND *when you meet somewhere else or go on a trip/visit*. Please think of the dire consequences of an accident (serious bleeding?) happening when no kit is available: we would be horribly embarrassed and perhaps legally liable! In connection with First Aid, please remember that non-latex gloves MUST always be worn if bleeding needs to be treated.

Gazette Reports

Please remember that photos are more than acceptable to the Gazette, as well as, or as an alternative to, straight text

Forthcoming Events

The District Carol Service is on December 12th (starting at 6.45 pm) and takes place at the Methodist Chapel in Masham this year. I'm hoping we will have at least an 80% attendance across the District, so, LEADERS, please "encourage" all your young people to go along; if possible, smartly turned out (no trainers and jeans). The service is followed by refreshments and an opportunity to get to know, not only Scouts, young and older, from other Groups, but also members of the District Exec and Scout Fellowship. An exciting night orienteering activity has been arranged by David Day for Scouts and members of the ESU - contact David for details

For Information

We are hoping to have a large contingent of Scouts at NYJAM (July, 2009), and Mike Collins will be District Scout Leader at the Jamboree. Please encourage your Scouts and Explorer Scouts to attend what should be an exciting week of activities and entertainment based on the Yorkshire Showground in Harrogate. Contact Elaine Day about day-only visits by Cubs and Beavers.

The 2009 Diary & Address List will be available shortly, mainly distributed through GSLs.

The Membership Fee for 2009 is £30 (same as 2008, you'll be pleased to hear!), with substantial rebates to Groups for prompt payment.

The Appointments and Review procedures have been revised by HQ: details to follow in due course

Do you know.....?

Do you know who is on the District Executive Committee? In fact, are you aware what the Exec actually does for Scouting in R & D? The Exec supports the DC and helps him to manage the District. There are getting on for 20 people on the Exec, some of them nominated by the DC, others elected to serve or, in the case of two members, co-opted.



Are some more *important* than others? No, but there are a number of key roles in the District, and one of them is that of District Chairman. Since May this year, our Chairman has been Tim Jones, now clearly a grandparent, who writes as follows:

My adult Scouting career began over 30 years' ago when I started the 1st Highside Scout Group in Kirkby Malzeard. When work in Leeds made traveling on a Friday night difficult, I moved to become Akela at 4th Ripon and then ended my uniformed career as ADC (Cubs). As District Chairman I want to support Scouting in the District in as many ways as I can, making the Scouting experience available to as many youngsters as possible. If I could go full circle and see Scouting's return to the *rural* areas of the District, I would be very happy, but I'm also aware of the need to support and encourage existing groups.

