



Ripon & District News Update

July 2009

As I shall be on holiday from June 25th until July 7th, I'm starting to put together the July News Update early. You *can* contact me while I'm away, and, as far as email is concerned, it's business as usual (we'll be staying with our son in Inchon, South Korea, where there is magnificent high-speed broadband, 24/7). The following News Update items are in no particular order this month.....

WOOD BADGES

You'll be aware that I have been having a drive on these lately. The good news is that I've sent off two Wood Badge applications to the County Training Manager on behalf of Vicky (ABSL, 4th Ripon) and Roz (SL, 6th Ripon). I'm really hoping more will follow this year: Alex at 6th Ripon is *nearly* there; and there are a couple more I can think of (best not to mention names!)

WELL DONE, BRIGET!

Briget (ASL, Boroughbridge) has recently been presented with her 10 year long service certificate – congratulations!

NIGHTS AWAY

I was pleased to give Andrew (CSL, Boroughbridge) a NAP recently – well done! Angela (ACSL, 4th Ripon) should be getting her permit shortly, and Roz will be “assessing” at least Barry and Amanda of 6th Ripon at Snowball in September

GETTING STARTED

Ian Shepherd (Boroughbridge) completed the course earlier in June and should soon validate the training. There is one new leader (Janine Toole at 4th Ripon) signed up for a Getting Started course running on Saturday, September 5th. I'm hoping we shall have other new leaders wanting to do the initial training by then

FIRST RESPONSE

Shortly, I'll be sending out details of the District course later this year. All leaders who did their first aid training in 2006 should sign up, along with new leaders who do not have a first aid qualification

YOUNG LEADER TRAINING

The next training evening for the group is on July 9th when we'll be looking at Programme Planning. It would be helpful if Section Leaders could allow their YLs, not only to plan and run occasional activities in the programme, but also participate in general programme planning for the term

I shall be running a Module A course on July 16th. It's **ESSENTIAL** that all new and prospective YLs attend the training

I was very pleased that Peter Whitfield, former YL with 4th Ripon Beavers, signed up as an *adult* Scouter as soon as he turned 18. He is now the *youngest* Ripon person on My Backpack!

THANK YOU

Sadly, we are losing two outstanding Cubs' Leaders this summer: Sue at 6th Ripon and Hazel at Boroughbridge. I shall be writing to them individually, but we need to say thank you to them on

behalf of the District for their brilliant contribution to Scouting in R & D over the past five years or so – you will both be greatly missed as leaders! Keep in touch.....

I mention that Alex is taking over as CSL of 6th Ripon. Revised arrangements at Boroughbridge will be announced in due course

AWARDS

It's that time of year when the County and the Scout Association ask us to submit nominations for Scouting Awards. I'm sure there are leaders and supporters in the District whose names might be put forward. Your suggestions/recommendations would be appreciated, by the end of term, please

REFLECTION

The tragic death by drowning of a Beaver Scout in Suffolk has cast a shadow over Scouting in the past week or so. How awful for the leaders concerned, and, of course, for the grieving parents to whom we offer our condolences. We have no idea what happened and it would be irresponsible to speculate. *However*, the tragedy reminds us of the dreadful responsibility we take on our shoulders when we engage in outdoor activities with children, even modest riverside walks. A risk assessment which takes account of water dangers is essential if and when we decide to take our Beavers and Cubs for walks along the Ure (or its tributaries) or even along one of the canal sections in the area. If a child falls in, is an adult in the group capable of rescuing the child by some means? If the answer is an honest "no", perhaps we ought to find somewhere else to go for our summer walks....

"INCLUSION"

Section Leaders: please ensure that your assistant leaders always have a worthwhile job to do at your meetings. If you do all the work, including planning, and they have nothing to do but stand around, don't expect them to stay with you. Don't feel that YOU must do everything!

Leaders and Assistant Leaders: please make sure your parent helpers and Young Leaders are valued and included. Give them real work to do. Whatever you do, don't waste their time or allow them to become bored or feel like spare parts!

Scouting desperately needs Leaders. Having attracted them to Scouting, it's *essential* they can make a full contribution that allows them to use their talents. It's *our* job to empower and inspire them, remember

NAVIGATION

I recently took part in a navigation training exercise and short hike organised by Mike Collins for Boroughbridge Scouts in the Whixley area. As we all know, navigation isn't one of the District's strong points, and leaders organising this year's Night Hike will already be viewing the event with trepidation. Mike's training hike was excellent because it was pitched at the most *elementary* level of map reading skills (and even on this basis *some* Scouts didn't cope – but only a very small number!). We need to do *much* more of this kind of exercise.....concentrating on KEEPING IT SIMPLE!

EXPLORER SCOUTS

I'm including Phil's Gazette piece for next Friday's issue with this News Update mailshot. We don't hear enough about the Explorers and the article, which is excellent, brings us up to date. I was so pleased to read about Derrick's investiture and the D of E Awards, especially Oliver's Gibson's "Gold". Please spend a little time reading the piece, if you do not take the Gazette (I gather most of us don't!)

The next News Update will appear towards the end of August

John
23-06-2009

