



Ripon & District News Update

May 2009

Thank you

- To David Day and other 6th Ripon leaders for organising the St George's Day Parade, Service at Holy Trinity Church and associated events for Beavers, Cubs and Scouts - it was a memorable occasion and one that we all thoroughly appreciated!



- To Kath Addy, who lives in Norton-le-Clay, for all the quietly efficient work she does behind the scenes as District Badge Secretary

Welcome

To Bernie Heaysman who has recently become involved as a leader with the Boroughbridge Group

For Information

Awards: **URGENT** please let me have any further nominations for the David Burnett Award as soon as possible (NB there is a form for your use) and let Eric have your entries for the District AGM "entertainment" within the next few days

AGM: we need your support in preparation for the District AGM, and your presence on the night, if this important and necessary event in the Scouting year is to be successful; please do your best to attend!

Camp: we need lots and lots of adult support, particularly in the Cubs department! Please encourage parents to get involved: as general helpers, cooks, or activity instructors. Remember, extra helpers from one Group can compensate for shortfalls in another

Camp: if you have yet submitted numbers for Camp, please do so ASAP (the "deadline" was April 24th!)

Forthcoming Events

- April 30th - District Scout Fellowship AGM in Ripon
- May 7th - Young Leader Training (Mods E/F)
- May 8th - Boroughbridge Group AGM
- May 9th - County Training: Modules 12, 15 and 19 in Scarborough
- May 10th County Training: Module 25 in Thirsk
- May 13 - DISTRICT AGM at Community House, Ripon
- May 15th - Masham Group AGM
- May 17th - District Beavers Trip to Ripley Castle
- May 17th - County Water Activities Day
- May 19th - 6th Ripon AGM
- May 22-24th - Annual District Camp
- June 4th - Scouters' Council in Boroughbridge

Visiting Groups

I am very keen to visit all Groups within the District, and do my best to get round to see every Section at least once a term. However, during the current half term my focus is AGMs, of which there are six, including the District one; so visiting Sections is "on hold" for a while unfortunately

Notes from the recent District Exec meeting

- Thanks to Fiona for "hosting" the meeting on behalf of Masham Group
 - Eric Fell has kindly accepted our invitation to be President of the District for a further three years
 - Chris Hewitt has decided he cannot, for personal reasons, represent Masham on the Exec; but, thanks, Chris, for your contribution during the past year
 - Tim Jones is joining the Development Sub-Committee; he is also becoming Training Adviser for a number of ACSLs in the District
 - We have the opportunity of taking part in the St Wilfrid's Procession at the beginning of August - details to follow, if applicable
 - The Annual Report will be available to leaders at the AGM
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Do you know our District Exec?

Steven Walmsley has been the Executive Committee Chairman of 1st Boroughbridge Scout Group for the past ten years. His involvement with Scouting started almost 45 years ago when he joined the 20th Harrogate Scout Troup as a Cub, continuing through to Venture Scouts and achieving just about every badge and award there was at the time.

Once, during a canoe camp on Ullswater, he remembers pitching tents on a small island in the middle of the lake during a particularly torrential storm; it was a case of tent up and get in; no chance of a campfire; so straight off to sleep and see the storm out. Awakening the following morning to bright sunshine initially seemed just

what was needed, but very soon the realisation struck that there was water in the tent: not just a few drops, but inches of it! Trying his best impersonation of a seal he flopped to the zip to look out. Where there had been an island the previous evening was now just lake. Everything was soaked. But worse than that.....where were the canoes? The answer soon became apparent: having beached them and not tied them to anything the night before, they had floated off as the water rose and could just be seen in the far distance... So the only thing to do was to draw straws and the loser would have to swim to retrieve one; then we could paddle out to retrieve the others. Fortunately I won, so set about making breakfast. The Scout who lost was dispatched with empty water containers strapped to his back as floats. It seemed to take forever to round all six canoes up! It's memories like this that make Scouting what it is and I would not have missed my time as a Scout for anything! Of course this was all in the days before "risk assessments"!



Steven has been married to Avis for nearly 29 years and they have a son, Simon who is 20 and a Network and SLUGS (Society of Leicester University Guides and Scouts) member at Leicester University and daughter Stephanie, 16, who is a Young Leader at Boroughbridge and an Explorer in Ripon. Stephanie is going to Peru this summer with

"World Challenge" to work in the local community with underprivileged children, so please support her forthcoming fund raising event, a Ceilidh on 16th May, tickets 01423 326556.

Steven is a Director of four independent companies all involved in the distribution of energy and his hobbies are tinkering with his three Rolls Royce vintage cars; navigating for a very successful Rally team that he is involved with; and being a John McGrath look-a-like!



John Helliwell

April 27th, 2009

