



ISSUE 30

# THE



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DATE: December 2012

## NEWSLETTER OF BANSTEAD SCOUTS

### Tickett Talk

Christmas is upon us and the end of another excellent term of Scouting in the Banstead District. There have been Nights Aways, parades, badges aplenty with two scout troops receiving their first ever Chief Scouts Gold Awards. Well done to all concerned.

As our thoughts turn to the New Year, it is time to be considering how the sectional/group action plans went this year. Has each section reached its goals? In the next few weeks, the GSLs will be asking you to formulate new aims for the coming year so that, in line with the census, we can help to plan for development in our District. Hopefully we can continue our edge towards our target of 1000 members!

I'd like to take this chance to wish you, your families, your groups and sections well for the new year and thank you for all that you have done to make 2012 a great year for Banstead Scouting.

night poker and some guitar playing ensued as well as other card games. One of the days we had a good old barbecue and campfire on an island in a lake which was infested with (thankfully!) non-stinging jellyfish. We discovered this after having a diving competition off the side of the boat into the icy cold waters-which certainly woke you up!

We did not sit idle during our cruises, we learnt how to plot a course, the symbols and lights of the many buoys we encountered, some knots, how to coil rope and how to moor up and get out of a lock which became so slick that by the end we were a well-oiled machine on our return to Ipswich! The return voyage was awaited with some anticipation as all felt by the end of the week, we were ready for the crossing back to Ipswich and home. Thank fully, it was relatively calm but very slow going as it took us 19 hours in total but we got to experience something truly rare-so rare the crew (who had sailed for 20 years) had only seen it once before. We were boarded by the Coastguard in one of their Sea-King helicopters! It was truly amazing to see them carry out their work by practising on our small vessel. We sailed comfortably into Ipswich, satisfied with our trip and ready for some rest at home. It was a truly remarkable trip and for someone who has been twice now-it never gets old or stops getting better.

Akshay Rane

## Tadworth Explorers

(TDE)

### Sailing Report

On the 5<sup>th</sup> of August, some Explorers from Banstead and Tadworth Groups set off for Ipswich and then the Netherlands. As soon as we got on the Ocean Scout, the vehicle of our choice, we found we had to get adjusted to sea life quickly as we were making the dreaded crossing the next day. The crossing was relatively short-12 hours but in high winds and choppy seas that made some of the crew seasick but for the rest of us it was good fun as we competed to see who could get the boat up to the highest speed, whilst maintaining course obviously. We pulled into a harbour in the Netherlands and made ourselves food before cheerfully having a calm cruise on many of the waterways in the region of Zeeland. We visited towns like Zierikzee and Middelburg on our voyages and enjoyed the rather cheap Dutch supermarkets and the quiet scenery. At



### Longridge Water Activity Weekend

Longridge was a great adventure, where we went camping and learnt the skills of survival. We did a multitude of activities such as dragon-boating, sailing and rafting, where in groups we had to use teamwork

Banstead District Scout Council

President Mrs Diana Bowes

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to achieve our goals. It was a joint camp with scouts and explorers, and both of us thoroughly enjoyed it. After 3 days we may have been exhausted but we all had fond memories of the experience.

*By Callum Dawson*



## Jubilee Gardens

Over the last year a few members from Tadworth Explorers (Phil, Laurence and I) along with our Leader Nigel, helped to clear land to make the area tidy and to create a Jubilee Garden in Tadworth. We had to clear away lots of shrubs and weeds over a number of weekends. And on the day of the grand opening a group of Explorers manned the tea and burger stall. By doing this work it has meant that some of us have use this experience to help us complete the environment section in the Platinum/Diamond Awards.

*Daniel Arscott*

## Bazzaz

I went to the Beaver Bazzaz with 1st Tattenham Beavers where I helped as a young leader. Me and another soon to be Explorer Ben and Daniel Arscott, helped supervise the Beavers most of the day but for about an hour we showed around two Mayors. I showed around the Mayoress of Guildford, who is involved in Guiding. I informed her of the variety of activities the Beavers were enjoying including high ropes, go karting and lots of inflatable things. Having walked around the event and been to the shop where the Mayoress bought a t-shirt, we sat down and enjoyed cake. I really enjoyed the experience, as did the Beavers, and would encourage everyone to get involved in scouting.

*Nina Swindley*

Since April the Explorer Leaders have been getting to grips with OSM and this has led to the records of the Explorers Scout Units being updated and we are pleased to announce that the following Explorer Scouts have gained the following Awards:

D of E Silver awarded at St George's Day Parade

Daniel Arscott, Ben Gosling-Gleissberg

These Awards have not yet been presented as we are awaiting for an official event to do this at in the near future:

## Chief Scout's Diamond Award

Maura Barber, Daniel Arscott, Alexander Landless

## Chief Scout's Platinum Award

Maura Barber, Alexander Landless, Laurence Bolton, Daniel Arscott, Ben Gilbert

## DofE Silver

Simon Phillips

## DofE Bronze

Akshay Rane

# Tadworth Explorers (TDE)

## Canal Boat Trip (4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> May 2012)

From Friday 4<sup>th</sup> May to Monday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2012 twelve of us (10 explorers and 2 leaders), stayed on a canal boat and travelled along the Oxford Canal in Rugby near Warwick Castle.

There were two rooms with 2 bunk beds in each; 2 single beds at the back of the boat and a room with 2 collapsible beds at the front which doubled as a kitchen and dining area during the day. We all took turns driving the boat over the weekend; some being a bit more competent than others! Fortunately the boat was still floating when we returned it, having gained quite a few dents to the front..... I'm not naming names!

The food was surprisingly good considering it was bought on a very tight budget! Our main task in the supermarket was to find the cheapest food available that was actually edible; so into the trolley went items like 18p teabags and 10p custard! As a group we shared the cooking and washing-up responsibilities. This was easier said than done. It was a challenge to cook a meal for 12 in an area a little over a square metre, with people pushing through to get to the other end of the boat, but we managed and no one went hungry!

During the weekend we went through 16 locks. Originally it was meant to be over 20 but unfortunately sections of the canal were closed due to water shortages. This meant that we ended up having to reverse quite considerable distances causing a great deal of amusement for other boat owners who, rather than helping us, proceeded to stand on the towpath laughing and taking photos! We must have looked quite ridiculous wearing our bright orange life jackets and trying to push our seemingly uncontrollable boat away from the moored boats! Having been terrified that we'd fall in, Phil had originally commanded the wearing of life jackets, but this was short lived and the jackets very quickly found their way back into the cupboard. All except Josh's that is, as having pushed us away from the bank, Rob and Phil "forgot" to collect him and he had to walk alongside the boat in his life jacket for at least 10 minutes whilst everyone else laughed at him!

On the Saturday we went through a tunnel which was about 40 minutes long, very dark and very wet. Thanks to some pretty awful steering, we managed to hit the sides of the tunnel more often than you could possibly imagine! This was later blamed on everyone who was sitting at the front "blocking" their view - a huge exaggeration since it was pitch black and they couldn't see anything anyway!



Throughout the weekend we had time to play endless games of taboo, Pictionary and UNO. This filled our evenings and revealed the worst

competitive sides of quite a few of our boat-mates! Rob was brilliant to have on the opposing team – frequently giving away the answers by mistake so that we accumulated points and won nearly every time! The amazing game "Bop-it" came on our boat trip too. This was courtesy of Josh and it came close (on several occasions), to ending its days at the bottom of the canal. It nearly drove Phil to tears with its iconic sounds and catchphrases which could be heard at all hours of the day.....and night!!!

Overall, we had a brilliant time. Staying on a slow-moving boat rather than in a hostel or a tent made a very pleasant change and it was a fantastic opportunity to spend time on the water without feeling sea-sick, unlike our previous and somewhat rougher sailing trips!

*Melissa Vagg*

## Network Scouts

### Isle of Wight Revolution 2012

After the success of last year's trip, 12 members of Banternet started at Park Farm filling the mini bus to the brim and off we set to partake in this year's revolution. It wasn't until we were half way down the M3 that we realised all the tables and benches were still in the Park Farm car park; nether the less we continued and arrived on the island just in time for the opening ceremony. This year's theme was the "Revolympics". With each group being delegated a country we were ICELAND.

After that we set up camp and starting some very basic cooking as it happened our cooking equipment was keeping our tables company at Park Farm. With some help from Reigate Network saucepans we were all fed and ready to begin the evening. Each night at Revo there was a disco in the main tent which was also full of games such as strongest man and our personal favourite involving the "Banter Mummy". As well as the bar and the famous all night campfires full of singing and general mischief, most returning to their tents in time for breakfast.

The days at Revo consisted of activities from quad biking and Hoovercrafting to pancake races and kayaking and you couldn't forget James A winning the ultimate dance mat competition. It's also a good way to get to know other groups and share ideas. At the closing ceremony we also made a Guinness world record of the most people standing in a linked circle.

My personal favourite moment has to be spontaneous cooking/sing-along with Chris P and we couldn't forget the mini bus cutting out half way home and having to push it to the garage. The Isle of White revolution is an experience every scout should have and we look forward to doubling the numbers we take in 2013.

*Meghan Johnson-Phillips  
(Banternet Chairperson).*

## Try Dive

On Sunday 24th June 2012 Network Scouts met at the Wraysbury Dive Centre, to try some diving in the murky lakes near Heathrow. The sun was shining and it was a beautiful day to experience an activity that not many of us have done before. The team at Wraysbury welcomed us to their centre. They were all brilliant, fun and very informative. We each put on our diving suits and given suitable fins, masks and weights. Most of us found, upon putting our heads under water, that we held our breath and it didn't feel natural to breathe under water, but once we took our first breaths it was fine. Each of us had around 15 minutes in the water and after spending some time with our personal diving instructor in the shallow end, we ventured out into deeper waters, some managed to dive around the sunken coach wreck. Controlling the breathing through the respirator took a lot of getting used to; however the overall experience was fun and unique. The majority of us would definitely like to go again and possibly even complete some of the diving courses. A highly recommended visit!

*Sam Shale*

## The Four Inns Hike)

A walk on the muddy side

It was the Easter weekend of 2012 and I, as a Scout of many years, was about to embark on the most physically and mentally challenging experience I had ever undertaken, the Four Inns Hike. My brother had successfully completed this mammoth once already, and I wanted in this time. My mind was made up. For those that aren't aware, the Four Inns Hike is the longest and oldest hike in the history of Scouting. The task is 45 gruelling miles, over numerous types of tough terrain, in less than 24 hours. Yes, I hear you cry, that's obscene, and you wouldn't be far wrong at all. It takes place, over the hilly and beautiful surroundings of the Peak District in Derbyshire, a perfect setting for a brisk walk, with any rambler's interest at heart. But, on this occasion,

there was no appreciation of the view, and certainly no time for photographs on my part. I was in a team of four, including myself, with my brother and one other member of Scouts, Ollie. On the long drive there, I was sceptical about the challenge that lay ahead of me, and almost sneering in the face of what I was about to do the next morning, bright and early.

The Walk takes its name from the four inns along its route – The Isle Of Skye (site of), Snake Pass Inn, Nags Head and Cat & Fiddle. The Event is organised by the Four Inns Committee on behalf of the Derbyshire County Scout Council. Starting in the quaint little town of Holmbridge and finishing in Buxton, (a mere 65km away) this hike put my abilities as a Scout to the test completely. The first of the 12 checkpoints is the derelict 'Isle of Skye' Inn, and then the route heads south, crossing the flanks of Black Hill. Next, it passes through Hey Moss, Crowden, Tor Side, Bleaklow, and Doctor's Gate to the 'Snake (Pass) Inn'. The next checkpoint is over the Kinder plateau to the 'Nag's Head' Inn in Edale. The route then winds through Chapel-en-le-Frith, White Hall, and the Goyt Valley to the 'Cat and Fiddle' Inn, finally descending to Buxton for the finish.

We camped the night before in a field behind the local church, the starting point of the hike. When the following morning dawned, I was anxious and worried. I had heard many rumors the night before, and I didn't feel ready at all. However, with much anticipation we took down the tents, ate a hasty breakfast, and prepared our bags for the in depth kit checks. When walking or running this hike, it is mandatory to have emergency items on you at all times, in the event of danger, so these checks are vigorous and very important. Amazingly, I discovered in the room full of eager hikers that morning, that there are in fact hikers that run this demon of a challenge, and in astonishing times too. These are known as the fell runners. Lean, skinny and full of adrenaline, these incredibly fit men and women strive for the best time possible, and complete it every year without fail. This did give me much needed inspiration, and also the drive to want to complete this historic hike, which sadly has taken the lives of 3 people in the past. Three Rover Scouts aged 19, 21, and 24 died in the 1964 event. The youngest was a member of the 32nd Huddersfield (Dalton) Rover Crew. The two older Scouts were from the Birmingham University Rover Crew. Travelling lightly, laden and without support, they were overtaken by deteriorating weather conditions, including 30mph winds, heavy rain, and temperatures from 0 to 7 °C above the Snake Pass. This news gave me the unwanted worries I did not want prior to walking, but I didn't care. I just wanted to complete it in a respectable time, and earn my mark in the Four Inns history books. The first 20 miles of the hike went

swimmingly, and I, my brother and Ollie were in good spirits, and actually enjoying ourselves.

Gradually, as the miles wore on, I could feel my feet starting to turn against me, and the pain and fatigue in my legs was becoming unbearable. I had not worn my boots in properly prior to this hike, (rookie mistake) and as I was a Four Inns virgin. I had not covered my feet in Vaseline, or chronically not even lubed up the inside of my legs. Chaffing is one of the many uncomfortable and irritating side effects of walking such a distance, such as I saw and felt on my legs after a while. Usually, two thirds of the teams finish the event, in times between 8 and 16 hours (the course record of 6 hours 45 minutes was set in 2010). However, some teams take longer than this, and some have taken over 20 hours to complete the monster hike over the years. My brother's ambition as our team leader was to get us to Buxton, in less than 20 hours. This we all felt was a realistic and respectable target. Willingly we pushed on, regardless of the pain and the ever monotonous concept of placing one weary foot after the other.

With music, banter, and glorious scenery along the way, the hike did have its perks, as well as not really needing to map read at all, due to the long line of walkers in the distance and behind, which was a gentle reminder to us, that we did in fact have some hiking knowledge, and more importantly, a good sense of direction. At most of the checkpoints, hot drinks, sandwiches, and sugar filled goodies were laid out in the dozen for walkers to gorge on. According to the experienced walkers, we found on route that you roughly burn a thousand calories every ten miles, so we stuffed our faces full of junk, and made sure the water and hot tea intake was frequent. The cutoff point, for all those that had not reached the checkpoint at Chapel-en-le-Frith before quarter past 9, were not allowed to complete the rest of the event. Knowing this spurred my brother on massively, and gave us all the incentive to get there, as quickly as possible. His leadership skills that day were amazing, and all three of us bounced off each other, keeping the spirit and determination going strong and true. I can honestly say, that as far as challenges go, this was ultimately the toughest, and the most physically and mentally draining task I've ever endured. Around the 30 mile point, I struck a low, and my legs were beginning to bow out. Darkness had well and truly fallen, and our comrades in their own teams were all far ahead by this point, which was roughly nearing the 20 hour mark.

The Mountain rescue teams were littering the dark abyss of the Peaks with their bright lights and

jackets, like guardian angels, making sure that every single hiker was healthy and safe. I had slowed to almost a trot, and unfortunately one of our team had bowed out before the hike due to a back problem. This left only three of us, and the rules stated that the whole team retires, should one more person have to quit for any reason. This played through my mind constantly, and the look of determination on my face was apparently enough to make any person stop and stare, and I willed myself on. I wanted to finish, and I didn't want give up. My brother's words of encouragement were strong, and both he and Ollie were beside me the whole way. At 36 miles, I retired from the hike. This was due to pure exhaustion, and nearly falling into a ditch on my withered legs.

The Mountain rescue guys had walked with us for nearly 5 miles, and could sense my pace dropping, along with my confidence. Sadly, around midnight I had to give in reluctantly. The look upon my brother's face in the car on the way to Buxton was a look of despair and agony, but he knew as well as me and Ollie, that I had given it my all. Ollie's kind words of reassurance on the way back meant everything at the time, the acceptance and appreciation of my efforts had not gone unnoticed.

Once at the finish in Buxton, I was greeted like royalty by our friends, who had again succeeded with triumph my friend, Phil who had completed it for the second time, just simply said, "well done, you gave it your all, that' all that is expected of you, seriously well done." I was distraught, tired and very sore, but I sat there and reflected on how far I had just walked, which broke me into smile. Yes, I hadn't finished, but it was the taking part that had mattered to me the most. I felt compassion towards my brother, as he was just as gutted as me, but being the person he is, just gave me a pat on the back and a cheeky wink, which said it all for me. I was defeated this time by the Four Inns, but I will be back in those muddy mountains next year, for the revenge of a life time and a second attempt at the greatest hike of them all, well prepped and with a pair truly well-worn in boots. Time to get training I suppose.

*Gareth Vaughan*

## **How the Network Started**

When I was asked to start up a Network unit in 2007, I thought back to the days I was in the ventures and remembered what a great age it was to be able to not rely so much on adults and virtually be able to do what we wanted, so I took on the challenge. Network was meant to be a county unit, which clearly was not going to work, and eventually it was decided by the Association that they would be District units

We started up with a handful of members and each year has been a learning curve as it is such a diverse Unit, some are just starting their careers, others are working but also at college and many are at university. The members decided they did not want weekly meetings and over the years we have tried a variety of meeting times to try and benefit all the members and currently we meet every fortnight. Over the years, programme planning has been difficult with the exec. planning a programme for 6 months at a time but hardly any one attending on the night, we now have a new system where each member is allocated a night to plan an activity and run it, not only does this take pressure off the leader & exec (after all it is meant to be run by the members) but each member has the opportunity to do something they want, and get to know how it feels to plan an activity and have no one show!! Obviously my initial fear was we would end up living at the pub, and it is fair to say many nights do finish there! But attendance has been good and the activities varied.

Network are more than just 'growing' scouts, they are our future leaders and nearly half of the 19 members are in leadership roles. Our attendance at District events, considering our numbers, has been outstanding and we attend and help at most of the district events as well as supporting Bazzaz, Scram & Scoutabout. This year biggest event was the Queens Diamond Jubilee in June and I can't thank them enough for their support and professionalism as stewards.

The biggest issue is what happens when they get to 25, by then most will have ben in Scouting most of their lives and many, for whatever reason do not wish to become leaders but want to stay in the origination, where do they go? SAS? it is what that section is for, but finding a leader to run it is problematic.

Recently we (Phil Eperson to be exact) designed our Unit Logo (Below) and hopefully soon will have Polo shirts and Badges made.



There are issues running a Unit, as there is in every section, but I'm proud of the members they have made it what it is and they are true to the name BANTERNET (for those that don't know it means

'The playful and friendly exchange of teasing remarks' but also stands for BANSTEAD NETWORK). I hope they, and the unit, thrive on.

*Mark Wingett*  
Banstead Network Leader

## Dates for your Diary

### January

10<sup>th</sup> – District Team Meeting  
12<sup>th</sup> District Cub Team Meal  
14<sup>th</sup> – District Cub Team meeting  
20<sup>th</sup> – 1<sup>st</sup> Response  
31<sup>st</sup> – CENSUS to be complete

### February

### March

18<sup>th</sup> – GSL Meeting@Walton  
23<sup>rd</sup> – 1<sup>st</sup> Response

### April

### May

3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> District Camp

### June

TBC – District AGM

### December

2<sup>nd</sup> – GSLs meeting @Tatts

**Copy date for next issue 1<sup>st</sup> February 2013**  
**Please send articles and photos to**  
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