



Whittlesford & Duxford
Scouts
taking part in the Shelter
Box Scavenge Hunt in
London.

Editorial Note
Every Group in the
District was asked to
submit photos
for this issue

but sadly only Harston and W & D responded.

District Diary 2010

September

Wednesday 13th All Leaders meeting - Abington.
Saturday 25th Granta Beaver's Fun Day - Abington.

October

Wednesday 13th District Executive meeting .
Saturday 16th County GSLs meeting

November

Sunday 21st County Top Awards - Cambridge.

Please contact the District Chairman, John Doviak
or the District Secretary, Jane Chapman for further details.

CAMBRIDGE SCOUT SHOP - OPENING HOURS

The Cambridge Scout Shop in Cambridge District HQ at 195 Perne Road
is open every Monday and Wednesday during term time from 6.45 pm to 8.30 pm

It is also open on the first Saturday of every month from 3 pm to 5 pm
(except when a Saturday is also on a bank holiday weekend)

We hold uniforms, books and equipment
For all Scout and Guide units in the south of the county
Phone 01223 248768

GRANTA GONG team

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Please send copy for the **January 2011 issue** of the **GRANTA GONG** by
Friday, 17th December 2010 to me.

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Acting District Commissioner's Notes



The summer had everything, a hot spell a damp spell and almost everything in between, but despite this many of you got away and provided some great activities for the young people of Granta District, well done. I hope after this you all had the opportunity to have a break with your families and relax.

Elsewhere in this issue your District Chairman outlines the process for establishing a new team to lead the District forward for the next few years. I encourage you all to take part in this process. Other Districts have also recently been through this process and in the last few months successfully established new teams. I am sure there are members in Granta District who would relish a new challenge and be prepared to take up the mantle of taking the District forward. It is also important that members take on new tasks from time to time to help develop your own skills and bring on new leaders. The District can not survive without a good team to lead it and I do not want to be in the position to make decisions that could change the District for ever so time is of the essence.

Over the next few months there are GSL and DC events to support these members in their role, I encourage members with these roles to attend as I believe they are of huge benefit, our local event is on the 16th October, please go to www.scouts.org.uk/gslanddcdays you will also have the opportunity to shape the future of Scouting.

We will shortly be in a position to update members on the new safeguarding scheme and e-CRB system that is now up and running.

On the 27th March next year following the success of the last event there will be another County Executive support day at the Over Community College, please encourage your Group officers and other members to attend.

With the Beaver Fun day in September, the Cub Challenge days in October (already full), the County Scout Camp and Peak Challenge almost upon us, the Explorer section really now starting to take off, the Commissioners challenge and the Belt expedition to Sweden next summer and now Network really starting to make a difference. The Top Awards event on 21st September filling up, and Camjam less than 12 months away I am sure we are all in for an exciting year ahead.

District and County events are there to help you provide activities and experiences to our young people that you can not easily provide yourself as well as to give them a view of the bigger picture Scouting has to offer.

Enjoy your Scouting and I hope you all take an active part in a range of these events and I look forward to meeting you during the year.

Richard Hames
District Commissioner (acting)



Beaver Report

Colonies in Granta are running very well with busy and interesting programs.

Beavers from most colonies were at the District St Georges Day Celebrations in Balsham this year, the feedback I have received was very positive a great time was had by Beavers and their leaders with a wide variety of things to learn and do.

I look forward to seeing all the Beavers at Granta District Beaver Fun Day taking place at Abington Campsite on Saturday 25th September 2010. Many Colonies are dependent on parent helper rotas to ensure sufficient help. Most colonies are encouraging parents to become Occasional Helpers when their child first joins this is then valid for helping at all Beaver events.

Congratulations to W & D Wildwood Beaver Colony on finding new leaders, and a warm welcome to Jen & Fran the new leaders who joined the Beavers towards the end of last term.

Spaces for new Beavers are very scarce; If leaders can be found I would be pleased to help any groups wishing to start a new colony,.

Finally a big thank you to all the leaders and helpers who organise our Colonies and events.

Best Wishes

Penny Bull

ADC Beavers

01223 840054



Harston Scouts



Above - Pioneering - Building a bridge
Below - Rifle shooting



More Photo Gallery Harston Scout Group



Familiar camp scenes

Setting up camp – Preparing the camp–fire – Food preparation



Harston Cubs canoeing on 20th June this year
All dressed in the correct gear On the water

The District Chairman Writes

As the summer draws to a close, many of you will be actively planning activities for the next Scouting year. While the administrative burdens that accompany any outside activity may have increased substantially in recent years, the benefits that result are still worth the effort. Safety should always be foremost in our minds when organising an event, but the absence of formalised procedures that would have been typical of an earlier generation does not mean that our leaders of old did not appreciate the need for caution. Sanitising an experience, however, would never have been their intention. I hope that all involved in the planning and running of outside activities will therefore be able to provide a demonstrably safe approach but not lose that frisson of excitement that should accompany a Scouting activity.

In Granta the search for our DC continues, albeit without significant energy over the past two months of the holiday season. The Search Committee will swing back into full action in September when Group meetings begin and the natural constituency from which Will Bull's successor should be drawn is in residence, so to speak. In the Spring issue of *Gong*, I mentioned that as an Executive Committee, we are conscious of the challenges facing the prospective DC for Granta given the geographical spread of Groups. This challenge is shared with ADCs who likewise have a wide geographical remit. We believe that one solution to easing the burden a DC would carry is to strengthen the team which provides support, namely the ADCs.

Granta naturally breaks down into an eastern and western region. This geographical structure has led us to conclude that an ADC Team to match would be desirable. Certain individuals may have the time and resources to visit Groups as widely spread as Orwell and Balsham, but demands of the modern era make it difficult for many to volunteer for this role. ADCs are asked to keep a close eye on how Groups are faring; they are expected to speak on behalf of their section for the needs of Groups collectively and individually; and quite likely their employers would like them to put in that extra hour or two. So where does all this time come from that is demanded of them?

Our desire is therefore to split the responsibilities for ADCs so that two individuals would look after each Section, notionally one in the east and the other in the west of the region. This structure would mean that cover is available should one person be indisposed, and importantly, the DC would have more people with whom to share her or his responsibilities.

I hope this concept to be more fully explained at the All Leaders meeting planned for 13th September at the Abington Campsite. The theme of the meeting is "The Future of the District". I cannot stress enough that it is within Granta that the solution to the DC and ADC vacancies should be found. In this regard, I urge all Leaders to attend the meeting at Abington when collectively we may find a way forward.



John Doviak

Communications

Communicating with one another is vital at all levels of Scouting. Information between County and Districts; between district and groups and finally from group via sections to your members and, perhaps more importantly, the parents of your members.

Several groups have a communications link already in existence :

Harston have a web-site <www.firstharstonscouts.org.uk>

Orwell used to have <www.1storwellscouts.co.uk> but this maybe closed.

Whittlesford and Duxford have their own on-line newsletter "Whisper"

There are advantages and disadvantages to both approaches. The web-site approach can have more pictures and needs a good up-dating programme or it becomes useless and people only look at it if they want to, the emailed newsletter requires more editing and re-issuing on a regular basis but it is more immediate as it appears in the recipients in-tray



Whittlesford & Duxford Scouts
Enjoying the facilities at Thriftwood Camp - 2010

Photo Gallery Whittlesford & Duxford



Wild Wood Beavers at the Heptathlon
Crawling though the tunnel.

Pushing large bell



Whittlesford & Duxford Scouts
General camp scenes (the dark photo is the camp fire)