

Gilwell Beaver & Cub Fundays

Gilwell Beaver & Cub Fundays will be held on 21st and 22nd June 2008 at Gilwell Park

There will be plenty of fun and exciting activities to keep your Beaver and Cub Scouts entertained for the whole day.

Keep an eye on www.scouts.org.uk where further details and booking information will be available soon.

DISTRICT DIARY 2008

Date	Item	Location	Contact
April 16th	District Executive	6 Babraham Rd., Sawston	Jane Chapman
April 20th	St George's Day	Abington	Mike Rolfe
May 2nd - 4th	District Scout Camp	Gilwell Park	Malcolm Perry or Mike Rolfe
May 15th	AGM	TBA	Linton to host Mike Rolfe
June 5th - 8th	District Cub Camp	Skreens Park	Brian Watson.
July 6th	7 a side Football Cubs only	Sawston VC 13.30 - 16.30	Brian Watson or James Smith.

(For County events, please see Cambridgeshire Noticeboard)

GRANTA GONG team

Editor: Michael Nurse - Distribution Manager: Valerie Hayden, (Contact via Editor)

Please send copy for the **September 2008** issue of the **GRANTA GONG** by **Friday, 15th August 2008** to me.

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DC's Comments

Many of us are sad at the loss of two prominent figures in Cambridgeshire Scouting. Both Ken Wardle and Tony Bell died early in the New Year. Ken was County Treasurer and Tony was County Duke of Edinburgh Award Adviser, a member of the County Executive Committee and a former County Commissioner. Both were of warm and charming character. It was a privilege for me to have known and worked with them. They are greatly missed.



It was with great pleasure that I learned that three Granta leaders had received honours in the St George's Day Awards. Valerie Hayden, Carol Alderton and Moira Deans have all been awarded the Silver Acorn. The Silver Acorn "is seldom awarded for less than 20 years service, which should be specially distinguished and appreciably better than outstanding". All three worthily meet these criteria. Valerie, after many years service, at times as a Cub Scout Leader, an ADC Cubs and an ADC Scout Fellowship, is now a District Vice President. She still continues her work for Scouting by helping to issue the County 'Noticeboard' and our own 'Granta Gong'. Carol, in her time, has given service as (and still is) a Cub Scout Leader. She has been a GSL, an ADC Leader Training, an ADC Cubs and she has also been DC for Granta. Moira, too, has an impressive service record. Moira is our ADC Special Needs and she is an Assistant Cub Scout Leader. Previously she has been a Beaver Leader and she is well remembered for the outstanding work that she did as Scout Leader for the Meldreth Manor Troop, where she helped so many, less able, young people to enjoy the fun of Scouting. All three awards are richly deserved.

In this issue it is also reported that Alex Carlyle and Jon Gibbs have received Five Year Service Awards. Whereas Alex and Jon's service is not as long as those above, five years is, nevertheless, a very long period over which to devote one's own time to working with young people. Equally important is the time given by those leaders and helpers who have only been with the movement for a few weeks or months. Unquestionably, the value of the adult service given by all in Scouting is beyond calculation.

It is coming to the time of the year for Annual General Meetings. Please let me know when your group will be holding its AGM. I do like to come along and see how you are getting on. Please, also, remember the District AGM, which will be on 15h May. I look forward to seeing you then and on St George's Day.

Mike Rolfe District Commissioner

This is a news flash, gentle reader, so please read on.

Soon there will be four Scouting events ahead of us that really need your participation.

The first event is the retirement of Mike, our District Commissioner, Come on, own up, you secretly wanted to take on Mike's mantle and guide the Granta District through the next few years, but you couldn't find pen or paper. Then of course, the closing date went by, so you were too late to put your name forward.

Not a bit of it, you can still whisper in my ear how keen you are to be the District Commissioner. Amaze your friends and family over the boldness of your decision.

The second event is the retirement of Janet Chapman. Janet, as you know has been our Treasurer who ensured the financial success of the Granta District through prudence of the resources available to us. So you didn't want to be the District Commissioner, but have always hankered after the Treasurer's role. Well, you can now be that person as from the District AGM.

Can you remember the date of the Granta District Annual General Meeting? Well it is Thursday, 15th May, 7 for 7.30 pm. That is when Mike hangs up his D.C's cycle clips ready for the next phase of his Scouting activities.

The fourth event is the celebration of St. George by Scouters everywhere. For Granta, this will be Sunday, 20th April. I am under a promise not to reveal the contents of the day, but I can reveal this, it is going to be fun and action packed.

Reg Cullum

Granta District Chairman.

I can hear you gentle reader saying, "He has missed out event three". Oh no I haven't. A gold star to the last of one of you to spot the deliberate mistake.

CENSUS 2008

We had another successful year, increasing our membership by 3% to 536. Thank you everyone for your continuing efforts

Mike

Appointment Cards

Now that warrant cards are a thing of the past, watch out for your 2008 plastic appointment card. This should arrive with the next issue of Scouting, or the one after. Remember, if you don't get a copy of Scouting then you are not registered as a member on the HQ database. If this is the case, you should get in touch with our Appointments Secretary

, Liz Smith: l_m_s@btinternet.com

Camps 2008

04 to 06 Jan	Sawston Scouts	Burnham Deepdale, Norfolk
19 to 20 Jan	Whittlesford & Duxford Cubs (Javelins)	Group HQ
09 to 10 Feb	Shelfords & Stapleford Scouts	Abington
16 to 17 Feb	Granta ESU	Gilwell Park
22 to 23 Feb	Whittlesford & Duxford Beavers	Group HQ
08 to 09 Mar	Whittlesford & Duxford Scouts	Abington
14 to 16 Mar	Whittlesford & Duxford Cubs (Sirius)	Eaton Vale, Norfolk



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

Scouts' White Water Canoeing

This year's Cardington white water canoeing day will be on Saturday 14th June. This really is a fantastic event and huge amounts of fun. Canoes are supplied and all Scouts have to do is to go along and have a great time - and get wet. Troops can make it a good day out. The location is beautiful - just right for a summer barbecue. This event is always popular so you will need to make sure that you book early - look out for announcements on the County website or contact Phil Garrett at pg101@cam.ac.uk



Charity Trustees - Criminal Records Checks

Your attention is drawn to this article by the County Commissioner, which was first published in 'Noticeboard'.

Following a review of The Scout Association's present practice regarding CRB checks and in accordance with the good practice issued by the Charity Commission, it has been agreed by the Committee of the Council that, in future, criminal records checks must be extended to cover all trustees and members of Executive Committees at all levels in The Scout Association (Group, District and County). This will also cover any sub-committees, Fellowship committees, activity committees, etc. Please note that from 1st April 2008 these checks will be mandatory but it would be good practice to start this straight away.

Funding Opportunities

The January edition of 'Cambridgeshire Noticeboard' carried a very good article on funding opportunities. It is well worth reading if you are looking for cash. If you can't lay your hands on a copy of 'Noticeboard' it can be found at:

[:www.cambridgeshirescouts.org.uk/noticeboard/](http://www.cambridgeshirescouts.org.uk/noticeboard/)

Assistant District Commissioner (Beavers)



Barry Holman has stepped down as Assistant District Commissioner (Beavers). Barry held this post since 2002. I am grateful to and thank Barry for the work that he has done for the District during that time. Always an enthusiastic leader Barry will remain in beaver scouting by continuing to look after his colony at 1st Linton.

I am delighted that Penny Bull has agreed to be ADC (Beavers). Until recently, Penny was an ASL with Shelfords and Stapleford. I know that Penny is looking forward working in a new section and to meeting the beaver leaders in the District.

I am sure that you will all join me in wishing Penny well and thanking Barry for his past work.

Mike Rolfe

DISTRICT SWIMMING GALA

There was a very good attendance of both Cubs and Scouts for this years event which was held at Sawston Village College on Sunday 3rd February with Cubs and Scouts from Harston, Orwell, Sawston, Shelford & Stapleford and Whittlesford & Duxford.

Although the competition was strong for both events they all entered into the spirit of the occasion and all had a fun and enjoyable day and mention should be made of the Sawston Scouts who entered every event as they only had the four members in their team.

Congratulations to the winners, Cubs – Shelford & Stapleford 'B' and Scouts – Harston. Many thanks to Neil Reid and Brenda Free for organising and running the event and also to Brian Pegrum our independent (Boys Brigade) referee.

The results were:

Cubs

- 1st – Shelford & Stapleford 'B'
- 2nd – Harston & Orwell combined team
- 3rd – Shelford & Stapleford 'A'
- 4th – Sawston
- 5th – Whittlesford & Duxford Javelins

Scouts

- 1st – Harston Shelford & Stapleford 'B'
- 2nd – Orwell
- 3rd – Shelford & Stapleford
- 4th – Whittlesford & Duxford
- 5th – Sawston

Brian Watson





District Cub Camp - 6th to 8th June.

Below are details about this year's District Cub Camp

Place: Skreens Park Scout Campsite, Skreens Park Road, Roxwell, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 4NN. About one hour's drive from Cambridge.

Packs will camp individually and be responsible for getting themselves to and from Skreens Park.

There will be Centralised Catering. Leaders may have to occasionally help with this but not "do" for their own pack.

There will be an Activities Programme for the whole camp.

The total cost of the camp, including activities and food, will be £30.00 per cub.

There will be no District charge for leaders.

Please remember that for all cub-scout camps or residential events there must be one adult for every eight cub scouts, plus one additional warranted leader in charge. Please also remember the CRB requirements for leaders and helpers.

Come along to Skreens Park and have a great time.

District Scout Camp - 2nd to 4th May 2008

Venue Gilwell Park, Chingford, London, E4 7QW.
Catering In troops
Cost £30 per scout for camp and activity fees.
Troops to add costs for own catering and transport.
Activities Will include; archery, air rifles, climbing, water.

Do bring your troop to join the District at Gilwell Park. There will be plenty to do and the camp will be great fun. Gilwell Park is an excellent site and is conveniently located for us, being only just over an hour's drive from Cambridge – traffic permitting of course.

CUSAG Forward 08

Well done to two teams from Granta that took part in this year's Forward 08 Competition run by Cambridge University Scout and Guide Club. Granta was represented by Shelfords & Stapleford and 1st Orwell.

1st Orwell did particularly well by finishing in twelfth place out of a field of thirty-four entries. A good day was had by all and thanks go to CUSAG for arranging, as usual, an excellent event.

Wood Badges



Congratulations to the following who have completed their leader training and have been awarded their wood badge.

Sally Green	ABSL	1st Linton
Hazel Bull	ACSL	Shelfords & Stapleford
Claire Smith	ACSL	1st Sawston
Richard Denham	ASL	1st Sawston
Luke Martin	ASL	1st Sawston
David Hunting	ASL	1st Sawston
Joseph Worth	ASL	1st Sawston
Mick Gatward	ESL	Granta Explorer Unit

Granta has made great strides in adult training over the past two to three years. To those leaders currently under training, do make every effort to keep your training programme moving along. The new training programme really isn't too bad at all and it is surprising how quickly it can be done. Remember to keep in touch with your Training Adviser.

Emails and Text Messaging Guidance for Leaders

The following is an extract from a recently released factsheet, no. FS330086. Please access Scoutbase to read this important information in full.

"As adults in The Scout Association we have a duty to safeguard the welfare of all young people in our care. The guidelines set out in this document are to help Leaders and other adults ensure that we make the best use of new technologies, while protecting both the young people in our care and preventing ourselves from being placed in a vulnerable position. All communication should be in a Scouting context. Decide the most appropriate method of communication depending on the message/information being sent. Gain permission from Parents/Carers to contact the young person and ask them what the most appropriate forms of contact for that young person is. Before sending an email or a text, ask yourself "would you be happy to copy in the young person's parents/carers?" If the answer is 'no' then do not send it. Arrangements about activities or events for Beaver Scouts and Cub Scouts should always be addressed to the young person's parent or carer. Information for those in the Scout and Explorer Scout Sections may be sent to the young people themselves if necessary, with copies to their parents or carers."

County Scout Camp

A County Scout Camp is being planned for 19th to 21st September 2008 at Brampton Racecourse. There will be a host of activities, including canoeing, shooting, rafting, archery, etc. It will be a great weekend and will give Granta scouts a chance to meet scouts from other Districts within our County. For further information see the Cambridgeshire Noticeboard for April and contact the Assistant County Commissioner (Scouts)

at: arthur.towler@bopenworld.com

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Good Service and Long Service Awards

Congratulations to the following who have received Good Service and Long Service Awards. The awards come with the thanks of the Chief Scout Peter Duncan and those of the District Commissioner.

Silver Acorn	Valerie Hayden District Vice-President
Silver Acorn	Moira Deans ACSL 1st Orwell
Silver Acorn	Carol Alderton CSL 1st Orwell
5 Year Long Service	Alex Carlyle ACSL Abington Jeremiahs
5 Year Long Service	Jon Gibbs ACSL 1st Linton



Congratulations

Congratulations to James Smith (ACSL with Shelfords & Stapleford) and Isobel Kerr upon their engagement to be married.

Granta Explorers – Spring 2008

The Granta Explorer group is growing steadily in size and we now have about 16 regular Explorers. Mick Gatward has continued to hold monthly meetings at Great Shelford Scout HQ and the Explorers themselves have helped to choose the monthly activities. More good news is that Mick has two new helpers/potential Leaders – Janet Phipps and Martyn Richards.



The Scout hut meetings this term have included hot air balloon making in January – and the Explorers were all successful in flying their hot air balloons in the confines of the Scout hut. For February's meeting they constructed 'buzz wire games' – the fairground game where a steady hand is required to pass a small loop along a wire without touching it. Mick has plans for the Unit to build a larger one to use for a fund-raising stall at Shelford Feast in the summer.

Go-karting at Caxton was very popular as usual in January and dry slope skiing is planned for the end of this month. In March Explorers were given the opportunity to practice their kayaking skills in the Leys Pool thanks to Penny and Will Bull, in anticipation of a day's kayaking in April.

In February eight Explorers enjoyed an overnight camp at Gilwell despite cold weather (it was –10C and they awoke to ice inside the tents!). During the day they used the climbing wall and high ropes. A night hike on Saturday evening ended with great views over London – the lights of Canary Wharf being particularly impressive.

Planned activities for the rest of the spring/summer terms include raft building, Mepal weekend competition in May and a survival camp in July.

Anyone wishing to know more about Granta Explorers is very welcome to contact either Michael Gatward (Leader) ma.gatward@ntlworld.com or Maureen Wiesner (Administrator) moandco@ntlworld.com

Maureen Wiesner



Project Meridian, Ghana 08 Update

Preparations for the expedition to Ghana are progressing well. Last week saw three leaders from the project make an exploratory trip to Hohoe, the town in which the Scout training centre is to be built. During their trip, meetings with the local Paramount Chief resulted in a suitable site for the training centre being identified and the land purchased.

The Explorers hard work at recent training days has meant brick seating around the campfire circle at Abington is nearing completion.

Many thanks to all who supported the quiz night back in February it raised £571.50 towards the project. Upcoming fundraising events include bag-packing sessions and a fashion show.

Donations of equipment for the container to be shipped to Ghana have been gratefully received, but there are still items we are looking for, in particular DIY and building tools.

Hazel Bull

email at Hazel@bull187.fsnet.co.uk or by phone on 0776 123 5487.

Changes at Whittlesford and Duxford Group

I am delighted to announce that Diane Holme has agreed to be Group Scout Leader for Whittlesford & Duxford. Paul Brown has agreed to be Cub Scout Leader of Sirius Pack. Malcolm Pye has agreed to be an Assistant Scout Leader. I am sure that all in Granta will join me in wishing Diane and Paul well in their new roles and thanking Malcolm for his past work as Group Scout Leader.

Mike

STROKE:

Remember The 1st Three Letters.... **S.T.R.**

STROKE IDENTIFICATION:

During a BBQ, a friend stumbled and took a little fall - she assured everyone that she was fine (they offered to call paramedics)she said she had just tripped over a brick because of her new shoes.

They got her cleaned up and got her a new plate of food. While she appeared a bit shaken up, Ingrid went about enjoying herself the rest of the evening.

Ingrid's husband called later telling everyone that his wife had been taken to the hospital - (at 6:00 pm Ingrid passed away.) She had suffered a stroke at the BBQ. Had they known how to identify the signs of a stroke, perhaps Ingrid would be with us today. Some don't die.... they end up in a helpless, hopeless condition instead.

It only takes a minute to read this...

A neurologist says that if he can get to a stroke victim within 3 hours he can totally reverse the effects of a stroke... totally. He said the trick was getting a stroke recognized, diagnosed, and then getting the patient medically cared for within 3 hours, which is tough.

RECOGNIZING A STROKE

Thank God for the sense to remember the '3' steps, STR . Read and Learn!

Sometimes symptoms of a stroke are difficult to identify. Unfortunately, the lack of awareness spells disaster. The stroke victim may suffer severe brain damage when people nearby fail to recognize the symptoms of a stroke .

Now doctors say a bystander can recognize a stroke by asking three simple questions:

S * Ask the individual to SMILE.

T * Ask the person to TALK and SPEAK A SIMPLE SENTENCE (Coherently) (i.e. It is sunny out today)

R * Ask him or her to RAISE BOTH ARMS.

If he or she has trouble with ANY ONE of these tasks, call 999 immediately and describe the symptoms to the dispatcher.

New Sign of a Stroke ----- Stick out Your Tongue

NOTE: Ask the person to 'stick' out his tongue.. If the tongue is 'crooked', if it goes to one side or the other , that is also an indication of a stroke.

A cardiologist says if everyone who gets this message sends an e-mail to 10 people; you can bet that at least one life will be saved.

It could even be you