

# Southport Scout News – No. 252. 20<sup>th</sup> March 2015

Readers also are referred to:-

[www.southportdistrictscouts.org.uk](http://www.southportdistrictscouts.org.uk)

[www.merseysidescouts.org.uk](http://www.merseysidescouts.org.uk)



## District Beaver Sleepover

Over the evening of 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> February 18 beavers attended the District Sleepover held at Waterside Lodge. The theme was Jamborees.

The Beavers arrived at 6-30pm on the Friday evening and consisted of the 14<sup>th</sup>, 48<sup>th</sup> and 58<sup>th</sup> colonies. After being shown their rooms and having their beds made up by their parents and having the rules for the sleepover explained to them, they partook of five craft activities – making passport, decorating a bag (which they were going to keep their bits and pieces in), decorating a Necker, painting a kangaroo body (not a real one) and decorating a Dutch clog woggle. This was followed by an indoor campfire which the beavers seemed to enjoy, particularly the peanut song. They then settled down to enjoy a film and some popcorn before retiring to bed to sleep, we hoped.

The following morning the beavers enjoyed cereal and Swedish pancakes for breakfast before embarking on a short walk by the side of the Marine Lake and along the pier. It was a pleasant walk and it was great that one of our new Leaders, Kerry from the 48<sup>th</sup> was more than happy to run with the Beavers along the pier because I am far too old for that now.

On arrival back at Waterside Lodge, we found that we had a visitor, Chris Scott, our District Commissioner. He was enjoying a cup of tea but had come along not only to see the Beavers but also to make a presentation to one of our Leaders. He explained to the Beavers the story of how the wood badge originated and then presented a Beaver Wood Badge to Dorothy Anderson. Just when she thought she was safe, Chris had a further presentation for her in the form of a 25 years' service certificate and badge. Well done Dorothy.

The Beavers then partook in more crafts including using the painted kangaroo body to make a letter holder and also had a go at toasting a marshmallow or two each on a BBQ. Lunch was then served before the Beavers enjoyed some indoor games before packing up their gear and the parents collecting them to go home.

The sleepover was enjoyed by all who attended and I would like to thank the Leaders for giving up their time and also thank Nora for all her work in the kitchen. I would also like to thank my wife Janet who assisted by Dorothy planned the bulk of the activities.

**John Marsh**  
ADC Beavers

## St. George's Day Awards

### SILVER ACORN



### **Congratulations to County Commissioner Alan Seeley on the Award in the Silver Acorn.**

*News of the award was only received after the last Newsletter was published. Perhaps Alan was too busy congratulating everyone else to reveal his own Award.*

Well Done, Alan!

*"The moon moves about two inches away from the Earth each year.  
"The Earth gets 100 tons heavier every day due to falling space dust.  
"Due to earth's gravity it is impossible for mountains to be higher than 15,000 meters.  
"Everything weighs one percent less at the equator."*

### **10 unofficial camping rules to make sure you have the best trip ever**

1. 'Turn off the phones!'
2. 'The kettle should *always* be boiled.'
3. 'Don't end up accidentally feeding the midges!'
4. 'Watch the stars at night...'
5. '...And the sun rise in the morning!'
6. 'Make time for a sing-song round the campfire.'
7. 'Once you've finished packing, add one extra blanket.'
8. 'Remember the bacon!'
9. 'Nap, eat and relax, but try and do one new activity you'll always remember.'
10. 'Set up camp upwind of the toilets...'  
'...And decide whether you need to use one before you get into your sleeping bag!'

ageUK recently held a CANOE CHALLENGE COMPETITION. Waterside Lodge ran a training and refresher session for volunteers and staff of ageUK to help prepare them for the event. After the event Sue Abbott received the following letter:

## Canoe Challenge Competition

“I just wanted to email you and let you know about our Canoe Challenge Competition on Saturday. It was fantastic. Hard work but it all came through smoothly and efficiently, just how we wanted it to be.

“Can I say a huge thank you to you for arranging and helping with the practice session. It was vital information for everyone who hadn’t canoed before or for a while. A big thank you to Mick and apologies I’ve forgotten the other gentleman’s name. (Robbie Smith – Ed.)



“Do let them know I said “thank you” for all their help and efforts. No one capsized or fell in the water, which is great! Plus, they’ll be delighted to know that the first two teams completed the 26 miles in 6 hours 40 minutes! We were down to start at 8 a.m. and hoped to finish by 6 p.m., but all the teams finished by 4 pm.

“It was just an excellent day; everyone was professional and adult but also had a great time.

“So again, thank you very much for all your help! I’ve attached a photo for you to see the members in the event.

“We are hoping to do the same event again next year and make it bigger and better. Thanks to you this is a possibility.”

**Natasha Kinsey**  
Fundraising and Marketing Assistant  
ageUK.  
Chorley.

*Because of the speed at which Earth moves around the Sun, it is impossible for a solar eclipse to last more than 7 minutes and 58 seconds.*

**A new partnership with Walking with the Wounded; a fantastic opportunity where our returning heroes can help transform the lives of young people...**

### Can-do attitude

Sometimes the simplest ideas are the best. Our former service personnel returning to civilian life have an amazing amount to give – a love of adventure, a huge sense of practicality, experience of overcoming challenges, and the sort of can-do attitude that means anything is possible when you put your mind to it.

### Working together

So why not encourage these inspiring men and women into the movement at this critical time? The fit is so perfect that it’s amazing we didn’t think about it before. These are veterans who may face difficulty on returning home and do so with significant injuries.

### A new partnership

We can now officially announce a new partnership to make this a reality. Scouting is supporting Walking with the Wounded, the inspirational charity that aims to re-skill and retrain former service personnel, helping them find places as adult volunteers.

The Scouts are in a great position to welcome former service personnel into their communities. We can offer them training and support, a fun, social network and opportunities to expand their skill sets and acquire externally-recognised qualifications. We can also offer a way for our returning heroes to make a powerful contribution to their local communities.

### Hope for the future

But most importantly, we can offer hope. Hope is powerful. The hope our volunteers give to young people is transformational. But that works in both ways – our young people inspire, encourage and give adult volunteers hope all of the time.

Who better then to help deliver our programme and foster character than our returning heroes? Who better to help develop those qualities of resilience, decision making, teamwork, leadership and communication – the soft skills that really help people make a success of their lives and which employers are constantly looking for?

### Thinking differently

This is just one example of how we need to be innovative in the way we reach new volunteers. We need to have the courage to think differently if we are to reach our goal of having half a million young people in Scouting by 2018. And we need to acknowledge it won’t always be through parents and former members.

But more importantly, we are a movement of hope. We owe it to young people and our former service personnel to make this initiative a success.