Editorial

Welcome to the autumn edition of News and Views and the start of a new scout year.

What a sad start to the new scout year. Three funerals! Fred Slater, Janet Jackson and Ralph Todd. My condolences to all their families..

Kathrine has been busy in her role as DC. Read and digest DC’s Spot - a few items need reviewing.

Dave has been busy at Stonepit, a new roof has been put on the garage store.

Due to illness News and Views is late (as usual).

Not much more to say except to ask for more submissions for the Christmas edition.

Have a good scout New Year, and keep on trekking.

Your Editor       Ron Berrington
THE DCs SPOT

Welcome back from the summer break!
I hope you have enjoyed any camps or family holidays you have had and that you have all returned safe and refreshed ready for the new Scouting year.
There are a couple of changes to the District Team.
Ena Scott has decided to step down as ADC Scouts to take on a role within the District activity team. She will be replaced by Emma Bramley, who has already started to put together some exciting new initiatives for the Scout section. Thank you, Ena for all your work with the Scouts in Rushcliffe District and Good luck to Emma in her new role.
Jock Shaw has indicated that he would like to step down as ADC Cub Scouts. He will continue in the role until October half term and with the programme items he already has in place. Thank you Jock for all of your hard work too.

Training
During the summer I was able to visit some groups at camp and to present woodbadges to some leaders. This is always a privilege for me to do. Training is really picking up again in the District. Thank you to all leaders who are completing training and those who are validating.

Safeguarding
I have also had to deal with a couple of issues that have not been so nice. I will be sending a message to you all regarding safeguarding processes over the next week or so. Safeguarding issues are never pleasant to deal with but we must follow the process to ensure they are dealt with properly.
Reviews
I am currently conducting reviews with GSLs, thank you to those I have already seen. I will be contacting the next batch shortly.

AGMs and Accounts
I have been made aware that a number of Groups are not having the required AGMs and are not submitting their annual accounts to the District treasurer. This is not optional. It must be done. We are a charity and the Charity Commission rules state this has to be done. I will be reviewing with Claire shortly to see where this has not been done. This is your chance to send your accounts in before the review takes place.

Kathryn Wills DC
"Welcome back to a new school and Scouting year. I hope you have all managed to take a break to refresh yourselves ready for the busy autumn period. Hopefully many of you experienced an enjoyable camp over the summer, either as leaders or as Beavers, Cubs, Scouts or Explorers.

I am sure that exciting programmes are now in place for the period leading up to the end of the calendar year. I know that the District Activity Team have been busy preparing for the District Night Hike in October and other activities and I hope to meet many of you at these events.

I am sure that you will all have an excellent autumn term filled with great Scouting activities. For Cubs the countdown is now on to that milestone which is the centenary of Cub Scouting. For Cubs and former Cubs like me, something to look forward to as we rapidly approach 2016!"

Phil
We are sad to report the death of one of our members – Janet Jackson from Bingham. Janet and her husband Keith were regular supporters of our group. 7 of us attended what was headed “In Celebration of the life of” at Bramcote Crematorium and Keith and family and friends were pleased to see us wearing our SAS shirts and neckers. Several people came over to chat with us and reminisce about their own scouting lives. We were all invited to the get together afterwards at The Belfrey Hotel in Nottingham.

After the August break we now look forward to the Annual Barbeque this coming Saturday 19 September at 12 noon at 120 Melton Road, Stanton on the Wolds.

The programme will then continue as follows:

Wednesday 28 October – Jock Shaw talking about The Story of an Auschwitz Survivor

Wednesday 25 November – Paul Roebuck telling us about his Visit to China and Trekking the Great Wall

Wednesday 16 December – Christmas Buffet and Party

Can I remind everyone that our meetings now take place at The Baptist Church in West Bridgford, at the usual time of 7.30 pm.
SMILES

Happiness sneaks through a door you just didn’t know you left open
Life is not measured by the number of breaths, but by the moments that take our breath away
My friends say I have a photographic memory, unfortunately it no longer offers same day service!
People may forget what you do or say, but not how you make them feel

And ONLY IN BRITAIN ......................

Can a pizza be delivered to your house faster than an ambulance
Do banks open their doors, only to chain down the pens
Do we leave cars worth thousands of pounds on our driveways and keep the rubbish in the garage

Janet Baines
OFF WE GO AGAIN

Stonepit Campsite has been well used during the Summer. The 9th West Bridgford and 1st Kinoulton held their joint week-long Summer camp at the site during the first week of August and, for most of the time, it was warm and sunny. Members of the District helped out by running a Knife, Saw and Axe course and a backwoods cookery course. On Thursday the 6th we had a fish and chip supper followed by a campfire to celebrate Margaret Walker’s 50th Birthday and were blessed with a fine, warm evening. Happy Birthday Margaret from us all. The only problem is it makes me feel old as I remember congratulating the Fooks family on her birth!

Towards the end of the month the site team finally managed to put a new roof on the garage/store. A couple of us were by the side of Kingston Road by 7.50 a.m. standing in the early morning sunshine waiting for the delivery of the roofing sheets and some stone. The lorry arrived as promised by 08.15, and after a bit of a struggle the lorry driver managed to get his vehicle up the hill and was soon unloaded. While the rest of the team started roofing one of us had to shoot back to Nottingham to sort out a missing roofing sheet and, although careful measurements had been taken and double checked, pick up two extra sheets. The job was completed well before 13.00 hrs. Thanks to the team.

Bookings are holding up well for the next few months, but don’t forget the Forester Badge Course in October/November. Leaders are very welcome to come along and learn some skills and help with training the young people.
Hollygate is hosting a County Cub day in September and the SASu are holding their annual BBQ at Stanton-on-the Wolds. October sees the annual Incident Hike; this year from a new venue.

Still time to put the OUT in Scouting. Have a Good New Scouting Year.

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On 21st June we lost Fred Salter who was Scout Leader at 1st Edwalton during the 60s and 70s. Fred played a large part in the building of the Scout Hall on Alford Rd. in the mid-sixties. The funeral service, which was well attended, took place at the Church of the Holy Rood at Edwalton. Our thoughts are with Laura and the family.

On 30th July SASu member Janet Jackson was taken from us suddenly. Janet had been a Cub leader in the county and joined the SAS West Bridgford unit, with her husband Keith, comparatively recently. Friends from all over the country gathered at Bramcote Crematorium to say Goodbye. Our thoughts are with Keith and the family.

I am sorry to say that Ralph Todd passed away on 7th September. Ralph was GSL of 6th West Bridgford (Heyman) Group for 5 years between 1976 and 1981 when he had to retire through ill health, he maintained a keen interest in the ‘doings’ of the district. Are thoughts are with his wife Annette, who nursed him for so many years.

Dave H.
BACK TO BASICS

Saturday 1st August and I am in the car park in West Bridgford waiting for the arrival of the first group of Scouts. They soon arrive, heavily laden with rucksacks containing all their personal needs for the next week. I check them off, give them their bus fare and instructions and send them off to catch the bus to Gotham. They will get off in Gotham and walk across the fields to Stonepit Woods campsite which will be the joint home of 9th West Bridgford and Kinoulton Scout troops for the next week. Altogether we had 16 Scouts (11 from Kinoulton & 5 from West Bridgford) in camp for most of the week. They all managed the journey successfully, many of them having never travelled by bus before. On arrival at the site, they dumped their rucksacks and relaxed for a bit before pitching their patrol tents, toilet tents, and getting their cooking areas organized.

Lunches were prepared for them but cooked breakfast and dinner was down to them. Fire wood needed to be collected and fires lit and kept burning. As the week went on they got very good at this, keeping the embers warm over night ready to start quickly in the morning. Dinner on the first day was just about ready by 9pm but they got much quicker.

Sunday morning, and Dave and Colin Howard, and Nigel Nurse came up to teach us all how to use knives, axes and saws safely, and the next few days saw the issue of multiple plasters as they got to grips with whittling. Sunday afternoon they also started building their shelters. The intention was for them to spend 1 night in them but some slept out on about 4 of the nights.

On Tuesday, Ena was there, armed with rabbits, pigeons and fish. All the Scouts had chance to pluck pigeons and skin rabbits, and turn them into delicious stews for their dinner, and prepare and cook fish in the embers.

On Thursday, once the Scouts had eaten their breakfast and tidied up, they put on their Scout shirts and neckers and walked across the fields
into Gotham in their tent groups to spend a few hours exploring the village, buying sweets, and finding out interesting facts about Gotham (some involving Batman who apparently did originate from there) but also involving the Wise Fools of Gotham with their tales of cheese rolling, moon raking and fencing in of cuckoos.

Thursday was also my 50th birthday so in the evening we had chip shop dinners, birthday cake and a camp fire. It was great to be joined by Dave Howard, Peter & Pat Shepherd, and Simon Gillespie to celebrate with me and the Scouts.

On Friday we took down some of the tents. The Scouts were sleeping in their shelters anyway so it seemed like a good idea. Then Saturday morning the rest of the tents came down, cooking areas cleared and everyone was collected at lunchtime and parents shown round the site.

We had a fantastic week. The Scouts who attended achieved so much and learnt loads. I know my 5 are already looking forward to passport camp and to a patrol camping weekend.

Stonepit is a great site. There are challenges... a very bumpy drive up the hill to the site, no water supply (but you can collect it from a local farm by arrangement), no flush toilets or showers, but it's worth it for the soft grass under your tent, the peace and quiet, the views and the experience. It was great also to have the company of Susanne and Kinoulton Scouts. Thanks to everyone who helped us out during the week.

Margaret Walker 9th West Bridgford (Holy Spirit) Scouts
St George’s Day procession and service 2016

Given the day of St George's Day itself (a Saturday) and schools return after the Easter holidays, our procession and service will be on Sunday 24th April 2016

Most details as per previous years but there’s months to sort that out – just get the date in your and your section diaries is all that is needed at this moment!!