Our Spring edition of News & Views adds to the celebrations for the 10th Anniversary of Rushcliffe District Scouts. We include articles as diverse as how to make a bag from a t-shirt, how many beans make five? There’s an invitation from Nottingham Islam Information Point, notice of awards including eleven Wood Badges and two Bar to the Silver Acorn awards and two articles remembering Charles Baines.

We welcome our new District Commissioner Fiona Burrows, who leads our district with a newly formed team: www.rushcliffescouts.org.uk/district-team

Thank you to all those who submitted articles during the Spring term. The copy date for the Summer edition is Friday 26th July. – Keep Scouting in the Summer!

Becky Howard – Editor
Colin & Emily Howard – Guest Editors

newsandviews@rushcliffescouts.org.uk

Rushcliffe Scout Council
Registered as a Charity, Number 522469

Website: www.rushcliffescouts.org.uk
Facebook: @RushcliffeScout
Twitter: @RushcliffeScout
YouTube: Rushcliffe Scouts
The DC’s Spot

So, this is my last message as your DC. I thought it would be good to share some of my memories of the last five years:

We opened several new Beaver Scout colonies working with the Regional Services Team. All the new leaders came from our parental involvement at the taster sessions. Thank you to them all for volunteering and for running some fantastic colonies. Thanks also to the District team who helped with the taster sessions.

We had an amazing District Camp at Hollygate which was run by our brilliant activities team, great programme for all our young people. Thank you for making this a great success.

We have had some great St Georges Day Parades. Well attended by smart looking young people from across the District. One more to go before I finish when the official handover to Fiona happens. Thanks to Alan Hubber and the team for organising these and to Jock Shaw for the entertainment and service.

We have grown in numbers every year in the census. When I started 5 years ago I said I wanted to smash the 2000 members number and this year we did. It just goes to show that in Rushcliffe our leaders provide great scouting for our young people and our numbers continue to grow. A massive thanks to our appointments advisory committee for arranging interviews for our many new leaders and to Pat Shepherd for her work on Compass and arranging these meetings.

We appointed our first District Youth Commissioner and took magnificent steps with our Youth focus. When I have visited the youth forums, section meetings and events, it’s clear that we really are a Youth Shaped District. Thank you, Ben Anderson, for being our lead in this.

Our training record has improved, and we now have a handful of leaders who have not achieved their wood badge within 5 years. Thank you and congratulations to all who have completed their training.

I’ve had an amazing team of keen ADCs and GSLs who have made my life so much easier. Thank you to all of you. Thanks too to the Executive Committee and particularly to Phil Lovett who has been my Chairman.
BUT – most of all thank you to all the leaders working in our sections, week in and week out. Thank you for inviting me to so many things in the District. I have been to so many exciting things there are too many to mention. I would also like to particularly thank Pat Shepherd and Alan Hubber who have been my right-hand people. I couldn’t have done it without you.

I’m leaving Rushcliffe in a great place. We have regularly been ahead of the game in everything we have been asked to do Nationally, from County and locally. I know you will continue to support Fiona Burrows and her new team to work through the District Development Plan you all helped to put together.

I hope as many of you as possible will come to say my official goodbye on 23rd June at Hollygate. Please contact Fiona Burrows if you would like to come.

Good luck for the future and thank you for making the last 5 years so great. Yours in Scouting

Kathryn
From the Chair

For many young people this is a stressful time with exams looming. Whether it be SATS, GCSEs or A-Levels the stakes have never seemed higher. In different measures we have all been there. I’ve used that refrain with my children, ‘we’ve all had to do them – you’re not the first!’ Perhaps I was a less than sympathetic father, I don’t know. My kids are still talking to me so I’m hoping that I didn’t traumatised them too much. Let me just say to all our young people, good luck – as we said each Pack night “...........do your best”

We know we have many, many talented young people in this District and it is not just about the exam, important as that might be. Without wishing to sound too trite it is about the journey and there will be one or two trips down cul-de-sacs along the way and a few three-point turns required as a result. From a personal perspective, I don’t think that is a bad thing, it’s all part of the learning process. As long as the general direction of travel follows the mapped-out route that’s fine.

As we look forward to St. George’s Day, that opportunity to re-affirm our rather unique Promise and continuing in the vein of examination and achievement, my mind turns to those young people in the District who have achieved the ultimate distinction of becoming Queen’s Scouts and who will be at Windsor in the presence of the Queen on this most important of days for English Scouts. All of us who have been in the Movement know that to achieve that highest accolade requires single-minded determination. I didn’t quite make it – perhaps too many cul-de-sacs in that part of my Scouting journey and that is something of a regret. Huge congratulations to all the young people who are going to Windsor this year and encouragement from someone who didn’t quite make it to those who are coming up behind weighing up the pressures of exams and the effort and commitment needed to become a Queen’s Scout – you can do it! Mention should be made here of the parents’ and Scout Leaders who help to channel the enthusiasm and positivity in the right direction to ensure that our young people make it over the line.

In my role as District Chairman, I have recently had a conversation with someone who has probably just about reached the pinnacle of their particular career, which will have required them to pass all sorts of exams in order to be able to use the letters after their name. Whilst my experience and his are quite different and there was a certain adversarial nature to the conversation – we had a shared language and that was Scouting. At a period in our history when there doesn’t appear to be much positivity from many – I will hold on to the force for good that is Scouting and the important part that Scouts (once a Scout always a Scout) are playing in our society and economy.

Phil
Happy 10th Birthday to the Rushcliffe District.

In 2009 the South East Notts and West Bridgford Scout Districts joined forces to form the super-size Rushcliffe District.

Reading through back copies of NEWS AND VIEWS (see them on our website) there are so many activities reported, the formation of new Groups and sections, Big Weekends, a Mega Moot, District and Section Camps, St. George’s Day celebrations, Incident Hikes.

Then there have been celebrations of notable anniversaries, Cub Scouts reached 100 and Beaver Scouts 30, Stonepit at 60, Hollygate at 10 and several groups reaching a significant milestone in their existence, the Scout Fellowship transforming into Scout Active Support.

Group Headquarters have been redeveloped, improved or acquired.

There are also the achievements and adventures of the individual sections.

Beaver Scouts and younger Cub Scouts, not born in 2009 are now enjoying Scouting. Our older members are in their 80s or 90s. What a range! We have Grandparents, Children and Grandchildren all still taking part in the fun.

As we are told ‘We do it because we enjoy it.’

Have we had a successful first decade? I think so. Can we continue and improve in the next decade? Why not?

As we approach this year’s St. George’s Day celebration and the renewal of our promises it’s perhaps time to reprint an article that appeared in the W.B. N&V in 2005

TO DO MY BEST

When we make the Scout Promise we are put on our honour to do our best to do our duty to God and to the Queen, to help other people and to keep the Scout Law.

As I see it, to remain a Scout I must accept the whole of the Promise and not just the parts that suit me. Over time my best may well vary, sometimes my faith may diminish or grow stronger, my duty as a citizen will not always be as acceptable as it might be and I may be tempted to say ***** other people, but having made the commitment of being a Scout I am duty bound to hold to the Promise and Law and at all times do my best to keep to the fundamental precepts set out in them. I also remind myself that the Promise and Law are the two things that make Scouting and Guiding unique.

Over the years, attitudes change, at one time an expression of grave doubt in a personal deity would have been enough for a potential leader to not be allowed to become a warranted leader. A person ‘living in sin’ may well have been turned down, but times change and, along with them, what is acceptable and how much ‘best’ is required to be a member of the World-Wide family.

Many years ago, on becoming a Rover Scout, part of the investiture ceremony was to carry out a vigil in a quiet place, sometimes all night, but more often for an hour or so. The time would be spent
thinking about Scouting in general and the Promise and Law in particular. If you have doubts about your Scouting, take time to have your own vigil and think long and hard about the commitment you have made by making the Scout Promise. Are you prepared to do your best to keep the vow you have made in all its parts or do you feel that you can only accept some of them? If you cannot accept all the commitments, you have made ask yourself ‘Can I call myself a Scout?’

THE DECISION IS YOURS.

Dave Howard

(A Scout)

Thanks to all the Leaders, Supporters and Young People, past and present, who make Scouting what it is in our District. Be proud of your contribution to District life, continue to enjoy, learn and mentor.

Remember to ‘LOOK WIDE’ and put the ‘OUT’ in ScOUTing.

Here’s to the future!

Dave H.

(A member of Scouting for nearly 70 years)

Stonepit & Hollygate

Stonepit and Hollygate are showing clear signs of Spring with the trees coming into leaf and the early flowers coming into bloom,

By the time you read this the Bluebells, Violets, Primroses should be well out and the Early Purple Orchids at Stonepit will be coming into flower.

Very little work has been carried out at Stonepit recently as the Staff have been indisposed, but we have managed to clear up several fallen trees and branches.

Hollygate held a couple of work days, both reasonably well attended and most of the necessary jobs were completed or well under way.

Dave H.
How Many Beans Make Five?

No, that wasn’t one of the “difficult” questions posed at the Rushcliffe District Scouts (RDS) Quiz which was held on Wednesday 6 March 2019. But there were plenty of others in categories ranging from Kidz Favourites to General Knowledge, together with an Arrival Quiz Challenge and two Chaos Rounds.

Over 40 Scouts, Leaders and Adults assembled at The Friary Church Hall on Musters Road, West Bridgford for the annual RDS Scout quiz.

Teams from 2nd East Leake (aka Wiki-Leakes), 1st Kinoulton (aka The Kinoulton 6), 1st Radcliffe on Tent (aka Thor), 3rd West Bridgford (aka The Friary 6) & 9th West Bridgford (aka The Best) competed against each other to win the trophy this year. Although 9th West Bridgford were the defending champions, the other teams were intent on wresting the trophy from their grasp. There were also two teams of Leaders/Adults, “Tee Pee or not Tee Pee” and “WigWam Bam”, who competed against each other so that they didn’t fall asleep or sneak out for a beverage at the nearest hostelry (as if they would!).

Once again, the competition was close with all the teams demonstrated their vast knowledge on a wide range of topics. There was a short interval during the evening for light refreshments so that the teams could refresh themselves. Thanks have to go to Ena Scott for organising this.

Were 9th West Bridgford victorious again this year and did they retain the trophy? Or did one of their opposing teams manage to overtake them and become the new “Champions”? Well, these weren’t two of the questions posed in the Quiz! The standard of quizzing was high, and it showed, because there was only 13 points between first and last. Unlucky!

We can however announce that the (drum roll) “New” Champions are The Friary 6 (3Rd West Bridgford) who overcame all the odds to win the trophy in 2019. Congratulations and well done! The trophy was presented to the winning team by Fiona Burrows our new Rushcliffe District Commissioner.

In the Leader/Adults competition, this year’s winners were “WigWam Bam” who won the “Lightbulb Moment” award.

Thanks are extended to all those who took part and especially to Peter Shepherd who formulated the questions, answers and organised the evening and to all those who helped to make this another successful Rushcliffe District Scouts event. We hope to see you all next year together with a few more ambitious entrants. The Quiz is open to all Scouts in the Rushcliffe District. Let’s make it a “bumper one”. See you next year,

Ron Shepherd - your Quiz Inquisitor
Beaver Camp 2019

Keyworth Beavers were lucky enough to be invited to a camp at Kinoulton village hall with the Kinoulton Beavers.

I was very excited to pack my bags as I have never had a sleepover with the Beavers before. We said goodbye to our parents at 11am.

The first task we were given was to draw a picture on a piece of paper with our name on it. This was so that we knew where to sit, and so that our chairs could be moved around for us to meet and sit with different people at every meal time.

Our next task was to make a bug hotel. We used bamboo, hay, leaves and twigs to make a comfy habitat for creepy crawlies in an old plant pot.

We were soon getting hungry and now it was time to make pizzas for lunch. We rolled out the dough, spread on the tomato sauce, sprinkled on some cheese and toppings and made a sticky mess!

The pizzas went into the oven to cook. Whilst we were waiting, it was time to have a go at archery! This was my first time and unfortunately, I didn't manage to get an arrow to stick to the target!

The pizzas were ready! Yum yum!

In the afternoon, we had three more activities left to do. Making a sock rabbit with rice! playing life sized hungry hippos (which I loved) and then lighting a camp fire and toasting marshmallows.
At last it was dinner time and we had one of my favourite-ever dinners, bowtie pasta, cheese and tomato sauce, yummy!
After dinner it was time to get our camp set up ready for bedtime. We picked out a space on the floor, rolled out our mats and sleeping bags and went outside to sing songs with the leaders before we got ready for bed.
It was great fun getting to sleep in a room with all my friends, although I think I only slept for about two hours!
I woke up really early on Sunday morning and my friend William gave me some sweets before it was time for breakfast! I had two sausage cobs and a bacon one!
We all got ready, brushed our teeth and played one last game before it was time to get picked up, fresh and ready to go and play in a rugby tournament!
I had a really nice time and loved my first Beaver camping experience.

Harry - 1st Keyworth Beavers
Extravaganza in Space

During January, I had the pleasure of watching a hilarious performance of Cinderella in Space. This was an unusual take on the story of Cinderella, and starred Scouts from the 9th West Bridgford Troop, with a script written in rhyming couplets by the Scout Leader, and scenery painted by the Scouts.

The story opened at the Mars Bar Night Club, resplendent with bowler hatted bouncers on space hoppers, and Martians in various shades of green. The entry of the Martian prince (confidently played by Laura) was followed by plans for an intergalactic party.

Cut to Earth, and two 'beautiful' young ladies, Dot and Mia (played exuberantly by Daniel and William) hoping to get invitations to the party. We also met Cinderella (played delightfully by Jess) and a very cheeky mouse (played hilariously by Abi).

Up to Mars for the party, lots of colourful guests from other planets, Cinderella, (after a visit from Georgina as an enthusiastic Fairy Godmother), and a grand entrance from Dot and Mia (exquisite in posh dresses and high heels) to do some very determined flirting with the Prince. Luckily, he was having nothing of it and they made do with a couple of Martians while the Prince heaved a sigh of relief and hooked up with Cinderella.

After a rapid departure at Midnight, The Prince returned to Earth to claim his girl, Dot and Mia repented their meanness, and a joyful wedding took place.

Mention should also be made of Lauren B and Charlotte (the narrators) Lauren W and Matthew (Martian Queen and King) Holly (Queen Elizabeth) and Emily (Announcer) as well as Michael, Danny, Patrick, Matilda, Isobel and Amy as Martians, and Rose, Luke, Felix and Elena as Friends from other planets.

It was a fabulous evening and I look forward to reviewing their next performance (whenever that may be).

Perry Actus Reviewer to the Stars

Note from Margaret: Thanks to Perry for the review! The pantomime was a result of several months of hard work from all the Scouts and raised a total of £223.11 for Blood Bikes. It also resulted in lots of Entertainer badges being earned.
1st Keyworth Explorers

This term has been full of activities and fun, from a farewell quiz for sectional assistant Mike (during which we realised we aren’t particularly good portrait artists) to high speed go-karting in which the leaders proved that they were certainly not going to let us beat them. We have been learning survival skills in preparation for a survival weekend, cutting wood, water purification and emergency signals. We then put these into action on our survival camp weekend at the end of term, this was a joint camp organised between Keyworth and Ruddington Explorers and we even invited the Scouts along to join in the fun. We worked as a team to build makeshift shelters of all different shapes and sizes to suit the needs of each Explorer. I think it is safe to say that as Explorers we all love a good fire, perfect for roasting marshmallows and on this occasion our only source of heat used for the cooking of all meals from pigeon stew to vegetable and beef kebabs.

A night under tarpaulin perfectly suited some of the Explorers who had a whole 9 hours sleep and even missed out on a glorious bacon sandwich for breakfast (my personal favourite meal). Unfortunately, I wasn’t one of the lucky ones after being woken by birdsong at 5 am. By the second night we had become acclimatised to the woodland way of life and the smell of campfires and had even had time to improve our shelters from the night before.

I found the weekend thoroughly enjoyable and I know that the other Explorers who went thought the same, it pushed us out of our comfort zones although we won’t be rushing to eat anymore pigeon stew! But we have gained new skills and even learnt a couple of new campfire songs from the Ruddington Explorers.

On behalf of the Explorers I would like to thank our Leaders for organising this camp as it was a fantastic experience that I won’t forget.

Emily, Explorer
Nottingham Islam Information Centre

Hello,

I am contacting you in regard to inviting different scout groups across Nottingham to our centre, so they may learn about the religion of Islam. We spoke on the phone earlier. Here at Nottingham Islam Information Point or NIIP for short offer a wide range of activities and services from open mosque days for the public to visit to frequent homeless feeding. NIIP have had quite a few scout groups visit us and have had schools visit us and we visit them, including both public and special needs schools respectively. We would like to further extend our invitation to more scout groups to visit our centre and to learn about the peaceful religion of Islam.

We at NIIP would host the event and would have a program ready upon arrival including interactive questionnaires, quizzes, presentations and much more. We also open our fully kitted youth centre, so the children can enjoy a wide range of fun games and activities including pool, table tennis, computer games, arcades and much more. We also provide refreshments, both hot and cold for everyone to enjoy.

We hope to hear from you soon and hopefully set up a time and date for you to visit our centre.

Our address is:

Nottingham Islam Information Centre, 1 Bovil Street, Radford, Nottingham, NG7 3PG
Tel: 0115 845 8520 - Our registered charity number is: 114799

How to make a bag from an old t-shirt

All you need is:
An old t-shirt (the bigger the better) & Scissors

How to make the bag:
1. Turn the t-shirt inside out
2. Cut off the arms and the neck (this makes the bags handles)
3. Cut off Strip from round the bottom of the t-shirt
4. Wrap this strip tightly around the bottom of the t-shirt and finish by tying a knot.
5. Turn the t-shirt the right way around
6. Finished - you have a bag which you can decorate if you want to!

By Olivia, Radcliffe on Trent Cubs

NEWS AND VIEWS – SPRING TERM 2019 – 11.1
Awards

**Bar to the Silver Acorn**
Steve Cumberland & Jock Shaw

**Award of Merit**
Martin Crew, Buzz Dean & Ann Pratt

**Chief Scout’s Commendation**
Fiona Burrows & Helena Dennis

**Long Service Awards**

Jason Billin, Graham Blakey, Karl Lewis, Christopher Moore, Jeffrey Turnbull

Lucy Bidgood, Janice Bradley, Joshua Kingsley, Kathryn McPherson, Jordan Phillips, Kirstie Pipp, Kevin Ribbens, Lisa Wakefield, Paul Wood

**Wood Badges**

**Beaver Scout**
Fiona Perfect, John Perrett, Peter Corah

**Cub Scout**
Paul Butler, Kiran Patel, Graham Huggett, Paul Bassett, Claire Burrough

**Scout**
Alison Russell, Helen Pidgeon, James Milnes
Charles Brian Baines

On February 7th the District lost a stalwart member of the team when Charlie passed away. Charlie joined 3rd WB cubs about 1940 and continued through the Group in Cubs, Scouts and Rovers.

After National Service he took the role of ASL March 1951. He continued with the Group becoming SL, AVSL, and AGSL, until he had to finish his leadership role on reaching 65.

In 1995 he was instrumental in setting up the 1st Gamston Group to cater for the youth in the new housing in the area.

For many years Charlie was a keen participant in Gang Shows both in the County and with 3rd WB. Latterly he was a member of the Scout Fellowship, which became the SAS, and he and Janet hosted the annual BBQ at their home at Stanton on the Wolds.

He was awarded the Bar to the Silver Acorn for his outstanding service to the movement in 1997. Mona, his former Cub Leader and long-time friend, presented him with his 60-year service award in 2007. (HQ sometimes get the dates awry!)

For many years Charlie served on the West Bridgford and Rushcliffe Scout Executive as member and later as a vice-president.

I got to know both Charlie and Janet right from being a Cub right to the present day – almost 70 years. I remember celebrating their wedding at a party for the Cubs at Stanton and many camps as a Scout, often at Abersoch, getting there on the back of a lorry.

The memorial service at Friary, following the cremation at Wilford Hill was attended by about 200 people with former and current members of 3rd. West Bridgford Group, County, District and Nottingham Gang Show well represented together with family and friends. Tributes were paid by Steve, Andrew, Mel and Paddy Baines and his long-term friend and fellow leader Bob Robinson.
The service finished with the singing of ‘Birds of a Feather’ and ‘Crest of a Wave’ complete with actions and accompanied by Gang Show organist and former 3rd WB Scout Richard Howard. Charlie I’ll miss you as will the District. Thanks for all you have done. Our thoughts and prayers are with Janet and the family.

Dave H.
(One of Charlie’s Scouts)

One of the best leaders in Scouting.

Having been born on Millicent Road it was obvious my Scouting would start at Friary West Bridgford.

Having passed through a first-class Cub Pack led by the legendary Mona Mackenzie I moved up to the Scout section just before the sixties.

Joining the Scouts was fun! Rumstickabum, British Bulldogs all the games we can’t play today. Scout Camps every five minutes at Stonepit wood, 2nd Class Hikes… What’s that you ask?!! Well two of you would each pack your rucksack and be dropped off say in Wilford Village. Have to hike to Stonepit wood. Camp overnight, light your fire, cook, eat, sleep, breakfast, clear up, pack up and hike back reading your own OS map!! (every scout could navigate with an OS map then!!) Back to Bridgford along prescribed route. Then, write up and give your full report to Scouter’s … diagram of route, equipment carried, menus, all food taken and cost. Then hopefully, after interview with Scout Leader PASS.

Did I say FUN?... You bet. Summer Camps: Abersoch, Scarborough, Snowdonia, Anglesea, Norway, Scotland and more. International Camps: Norway, Belgium, Denmark. (They still have these Camps keeping links with the same groups).

I remember so much from my Scouting Days: Taking the handbrake off David Howard's Car and going down Stonepit Hill whilst he was the other side of the woods, the 5 of us thought we would fail our Pioneer Badge but no, after a few good words from David and some hard work on site we passed! Having been told I couldn't go swimming, and not get wound wet at camp following burning my leg the week before (making an Olympic torch using lino glue that dripped on my leg!!) My friend and I decided to walk across Red Wharf Bay to get some snacks. Well the tide came in as we walked, the water got deeper, the sea level got close to the wound, but a guy in a motor boat got us in time!! Again, we had fun!

So, let’s get back to "One of the best Leaders I've ever met throughout my years of Scouting". Leaders who taught me so much in life I'm eternally grateful. I've mentioned Mona McKenzie: What a legend in Cub Scouting both at Gilwell and Bridgford. Mona was a driving force in National Cub Scouting development. David Howard, he taught me survival skills and more, and he's still doing it.
Bob Robinson and the late Charlie Baines at Friary. What can I say? No-one can say that having passed through Friary you ever did anything else than Scouting as Baden Powell wished it to be. Excellent Programmes, PL meetings (yes, we certainly had Youth led experiences in the Sixties!!) training second to none. Yes, for those who remembered can still today rope off a wood chopping area, remember no-one even two axe lengths away, and nothing but hard shoes!) Today I still see Scouts in trainers swinging a blunt axe on their site with wood chipping everywhere. Why I ask? well easy: no proper training.

I don't say this lightly, but Bob and Charlie (friends for 80 years) got it right! and it showed. Giving so many young boys the experience of a lifetime. They never cut corners. They gave us respect, confidence and Leadership Skills. They listened to us. They encouraged us. They spotted skills we never thought we had.

It was CHARLIE BAINES who once said to me " Why don't you have a go at producing the Gang Show at Friary, you can do it!!" Honestly, I never thought I would or even be involved in Nottingham Gang show 40 years plus now. It was CHARLIE BAINES and BOB ROBINSON who along my parents who shaped my life and I'm grateful. Later at Friary I met another legend who became a very close friend. He too helped me through gang show and mentored me when DC in Rushcliffe. He renewed my interest in water painting once more. I miss my Thursday sessions painting and chewing over Scouting with the late Dave Goodrum another true friend and legend.

So, Bob and David are still involved in Scouting. Charlie and Gooder's, well my guess, probably both leading a camp fire on a cloud up there somewhere over a mug of hot chocolate. Yes, there have been many, and still are, a lot of Leaders out there giving up time to keep Scouting a major force in the Community. Only some become legends, and you don't need to ask why!! We all have (alongside our parents of course) Leaders who shape our lives. We need to ensure we do the same, but we can only do it if we have that good programme!!we listen, we encourage, we take time to teach and have fun along the way.

Enjoy your Scouting...I AM!! and I hope to meet up again with Charlie & Dave one day over that mug of hot chocolate. (or if you are an old Friary Scout ...a mug of Fran's frothy coffee!)

Jock