



EXECUTIVE EXTRACTS



by Alison Swanney

WELCOME

I find myself writing this article wondering just how we managed to be almost at the end of October already. It seems only two minutes since the children were heading back to school after that wonderful summer we had!!!! For those of you who don't know, I "volunteered" to take the vacant Chairperson position which was left after the AGM on the 22nd June. So far it has all been about finding my feet with what goes on and surviving my first Committee meeting, which I'm glad to say I did!

I am lucky that there are some very experienced Committee members already on the team and of course GSL Keith is a font of knowledge, of which I intend to take full advantage!

MAINTENANCE....

As a Committee some of the things we have been looking at are continuing with the upgrading of the hall and its facilities. Redecoration of the remaining spaces will be commencing soon, if it hasn't already, as will new flooring where required. I'm told however the Committee room is perfect the way it is, so who am I to argue with that!

FUTURE EVENTS

We have the Hallowe'en party coming up which I'm told is always very popular with the children. Also our "Gardenathon" - if you can spare a few hours it would be most appreciated. The more hands we have the quicker the garden is tidied and ready for winter.

The Leaders have lots planned over the next few months for the children and it will be a busy run up to the Christmas period. I understand the use of the "C" word this early may alarm you, but it's something as a Group we need to plan for, as the Scout Post takes up a phenomenal amount of time and organisation. I am thankful that we have the lovely Fiona McCreadie who takes this on and does most of the hard work but please, please come and help in some shape or form when the rally call goes out. I know we are all busy at that time of year but this is all done so that the monies raised can benefit the children and subsidise all the wonderful activities and camps the Leaders organise, which in turn keeps expense to parents to a minimum

If anyone has any questions or would like to know more about joining the Committee please speak to either one of the Leaders or a Committee member whose details are on the notice board in the hall

Alison

'JOIN IN AND GET THE MOST OF WHAT SCOUTING OFFERS. GET OUT THERE AND BUILD YOUR OWN ADVENTURE. LIFE IS FOR LIVING!'
Bear Grylls,
Chief Scout



INSPIRATIONAL THOUGHTS

The House of 1000 Mirrors



Long long ago in a small, far away village, there was a place known as the House of 1000 Mirrors.

A small, happy little dog learned of this place and decided to visit. When he arrived, he bounced happily up the stairs to the doorway of the house. He looked through the doorway with his ears lifted high and his tail wagging as fast as it could. To his great surprise, he found himself staring at 1000 other happy little dogs with their tails wagging just as fast as his. He smiled a great smile, and was answered with 1000 great smiles just as warm and friendly. As he left the house, he thought to himself, "This is a wonderful place. I will come back and visit it often."

In this same village, another little dog, who was not quite as happy as the first one, decided to visit the house. He slowly climbed the stairs and hung his head low as he looked into the door. When he saw the 1000 unfriendly looking dogs staring back at him, he growled at them and was horrified to see 1000 little dogs growling back at him. As he left, he thought to himself, "That is a horrible place, and I will never go back there again."

All the faces in the world are mirrors. What kind of reflections do you see in the faces of the people you meet?





GSL's GLEANINGS



by Keith Strachan

WELCOME

Welcome once more to our quarterly magazine. We finished off prior to the Summer holidays with our Group Camp at Fordell Firs with the weather for once being kind to us with a weekend of sunshine. Lots of site activities together with a campfire on the Saturday evening and a coastal walk on the Sunday all added up to an excellent weekend.

EXECUTIVE MATTERS

I mentioned in my last Magazine report that a number of members of our Executive Committee were stepping down at the AGM in June and it was very pleasing to see the positive response from parents to joining up with us to ensure we continue to have a viable and active Committee. It was very rewarding that in addition to the kids receiving their badges and awards, our District Commissioner presented Yolanda, Graham and Tom with their Awards of Merit. Well deserved.

CAMPS & CAMPING

Some of our Explorers had a Summer Camp at Meggernie near Aberfeldy in July - *see Explorer report*.

Following our return from the holidays we arranged camps at Nineacres, Crook of Devon, for the Beavers and Cubs to assist Yolanda in achieving her Outdoor Camping Permit, with the Scouts having a separate skills camp. Another good camp but once again it finished up very wet and the hall was under canvas for a whole week to allow everything to dry off.

DISTRICT SPORTS DAY

Cubs, Scouts and Explorers attended the District Sports Day in September and came 3rd overall. Once again the weather was good while we were at Pitreavie and luckily everything finished before the heavens opened.

FUTURE EVENTS

Looking ahead, we will be holding a 'Gardenathon' in November to tidy up the hall garden areas and we will also be taking on responsibility for the area of ground

behind the hall to bring this area of land back into use for the Sections. It is a great area for practicing tent pitching, cooking etc and we can look at using different parts for badgework.

We are looking forward to running the Group Hallowe'en Party at the end of October which is always a fun and messy event, and Graham has once again booked seats at the Pantomime for December.



At the end of November we will be attending our Church, St Margaret's in Touch for our St Andrew's Day Service together with the Guides. A good attendance is expected.

CHRISTMAS POST



This all leads up to the Scout Christmas Post in December which is our main fundraiser for the year and needs as many parents as possible helping with the sorting and delivering. A lot of work but it is also good fun. I look forward to seeing you there.

Keith





MACKENZIE MOMENTS



by Yolanda Pearson

WELCOME

FUN & GAMES

Beavers started off after the summer with games and a discussion about what they would like to do this session.

Then it was back to an old favourite activity - decorating biscuits. Beavers were given digestive biscuits, icing and various decorations including choc chips and sweets! Most biscuits didn't make it home!

We followed this up by having a night about healthy eating, when the Beavers made posters informing others about healthy eating.

ACTIVITIES

Some Beavers joined the Cubs and Scouts at Nineacres Campsite in September for a sleepover. Beavers slept in tents and enjoyed a walk to Rumbling Bridge. They also took part in a trading post activity where they collected points for completing different challenges including singing, making things from natural materials found on the site, tying knots, First Aid and Scouting quiz. The Beavers took part in the campfire and toasted marshmallows! They also got very, very muddy, but it was GREAT FUN!!!

We had a night off to recover from camp then it was back to continue the Healthy Eating theme. This time we talked about healthy and unhealthy foods and the importance of a balanced diet.

Beavers then used their imagination to invent machines which they will build with Lego or junk next session.

The next week we played team games including corner hockey and knock the skittle down.

CHALLENGES & BADGES

In the new session we plan to work more on our 'My World Challenge'.

Beavers should complete four Activity Badges or Staged Activity Badges as part of gaining their Chief Scout's Bronze Award.

Beavers can and should work on Activity Badges at home and bring the evidence to Beavers to be verified. You can access the badge requirements on the My Badges - the Scout Association (U.K. Program) app or online at

<http://members.scouts.org.uk/supportresources/search/?cat=11,18,774>

Many badges will be covered by activities the Beavers already do, like collecting Lego or games cards, sports, swimming and much more!

TECH UPDATE

I am currently moving to using the app Online Scout Manager (OSM). When I am up and running, parents will get notifications from this system. You will also be able to sign up to the parent rota through this. I will send out more information as I have it.

thank you

I would like to say a big thank you to Graham, Keith, Michael, James and Julie S (hope I have not forgotten anyone, if I have sorry!) for all their help with Beavers on Beaver nights and at camps. Julie M and I could not do it without their help.

Thanks also to all parents who have helped out. Don't be shy, pop your name on the parent rota!

Yolanda





BRUCE PACK BANTER



by Graham McCreadie

WELCOME

We started the new session off with the Cubs telling us about their summer holidays, it sounded like they all had a great time while off.

ACTIVITIES & BADGES



We have started working on our Disability Awareness Badge by learning about various disabilities. We tried writing our names in Braille by using card, peas and glue! We looked at the way that buildings are adapted for different disabilities (have a look at our hall to see what's been done). We then learned some sign language skills and tried writing our names using our feet to understand the difficulties of losing the use of our arms and hands. We hope the Cubs learned a lot from this and can understand some of the challenges that people with disabilities face and can help them in the future.

We have also worked on our Cub Promise and Law by discussing its purpose and then the Cubs created their own rules for their Sixes based on them.

session by discussing healthy eating and exercise and created a diary to complete over the October break which we'll review when we return.

We continue to award a lot of badges to Cubs who have been working hard at home with support from their parents and family. It is great to see this happening and we strongly encourage you all to take a look at the range of badges that the Cubs can complete at home. If there are any you are interested in completing, please speak to one of the Leaders.

CAMPS AND CAMPING

Some of the Cubs attended a joint camp with the Beavers at Crook of Devon which Yolanda had organized. All had a great time and the weather wasn't too bad, until we came to take the tents down of course!

DEPARTURES & ARRIVALS

Eilidh has now left us as she's off to Uni in Dundee but Thyla and Caitlin from the Explorer Section continue to come along to help out as and when they can. It is great to see so many of the older Section members getting involved in Cubs every week.

AND FINALLY



A big thank you to the parents who continue to volunteer to come along and help. We are always looking for extra help of an evening and would very much like to see our Parent Rota filled out. We are only looking for 1 or 2 (or more if you want!) evenings a year from each family. No previous experience is required, but if you've got a skill or talent that may be useful please let us know!

Graham, Julie, Mike S, Jason, Thyla and Caitlin.



More recently we've been working on Health and Fitness Awareness where we discussed the amount of sugar in various common drinks and sweets (it's a lot!). We created a display that demonstrated it (it really is a lot!). The Cubs finished the





TROOP TALES

SCOUTS

by Keith Strachan

CAMPS & CAMPING



Seventeen of our Scouts attended Group Camp in June which for once proved to be a weekend of sunshine - great fun once more. Activities included abseiling, Jacobs Ladder, BMX, caving, campfire, coastal walk as well as pitching patrol tents and erecting dining shelters.

Unfortunately we were unable to run a Summer Camp for Scouts this year due to the unavailability of Leaders. Hopefully we can restart this in 2018.



As a result we ran a skills camp for the Scouts at Nineacres Campsite, Crook of Devon in September. Cubs and Beavers were also holding a weekend camp with the Scouts camping separately on the island. Weather was poor for large parts of the weekend but we jut got on with it. It was an excellent camp with the Scouts erecting their tents and learning how to cook on an open fire and subsequently having to clear away and wash all their dishes. The latter was a chore but it let them see what they have to undertake when on Scout Camp. We discussed with them the importance of looking after themselves and keeping dry and emphasising that they have to start taking responsibility for themselves. It was a full on weekend but the majority seem to have enjoyed themselves. Noticeable that a number of them do not appear to have experienced dealing with raw food going by their expressions when preparing mince and sausages!

DISTRICT EVENTS

Prior to the Summer holidays three of our Scouts took part in the District Raft Race Competition where they built and sailed their raft and duly won. Well done to Max, Cara and Neve.

We also took part in the District Sports Day in September and came 3rd. Well done to the seven Scouts who took part.

ACTIVITIES

For our programme this session we have tried to concentrate on the Creative Challenge Badge and this has included making candle holders out of wood using drills, saws and sanding machinery. Also some of our Explorers helped the Scouts create wristbands out of parachute cord and we had a visit to the Ceramic Cafe where they created various pottery items which looked excellent once fired. They have also begun designing posters to advertise the forthcoming Hallowe'en Party. A few more activities to undertake and we can sign this badge off.



We got out and about with a walk round Duloch and as usual finished up at the Chippy. The weather held up and a reasonable distance was covered in the two hours.

We finished up with a 'Bring Your Own Food BBQ' which because of very poor weather resulted in the Scouts cooking indoors on gas burners.

AND IN THE FUTURE

It's a very busy session coming up. In October we look forward to the Group Hallowe'en Party and in December we have the Scout Christmas Post which is our main fundraiser for the year.

Keith





EXPLORER EXPLOITS

EXPLORERS*

by Tom Ness

GROUP CAMP, JUNE

Olivia, Jane and Jodi took part in the Group Camp at Fordell. They were the first Explorers to sleep in the tent which was donated to the Unit by Lisa Finnan last year. They built a "Skylon" flagstaff. *(see photo)*

AGM, JUNE

Sophie Mair was awarded the R.D. Low Trophy for best Explorer Scout. The trophy was presented by last year's winner Sarah Reed, who was herself a close second.

DROP SCONES, JUNE

Last meeting of the session, using up flour and eggs from Group Camp

SUMMER CAMP, JULY

This year the Unit camped without the company of the Troop. *(see report by Sophie)*

DROP SCONES 2, AUGUST

First meet of the session. More scones were dropped.

MOVING ON, AUGUST

A hearty half-dozen Explorers have "moved-on", most to University.

FILM NIGHT 7, AUGUST

Jane, Caoimhe, Caitlin, Bola and Jodi took part in yet another overnight film session.

BINGO, AUGUST

All eyes were down for a full house.

ELECTRONICS, SEPTEMBER

Explorers, mainly Sophie, built an MP3 amplifier and loudspeaker set for mobile phones.

MURALS, SEPTEMBER

Olivia and Sarah took a leading role in starting the mural painting in the newly repainted Venture Den.

GLEN NEVIS, SEPTEMBER

Olivia, Sophie and Caoimhe took a hike up Glen Nevis to visit the Polldubh falls and Steall falls. They crossed the famous, and shoogly, tarzan bridge over the river. *(see report by Sophie)*

SPORTS DAY, SEPTEMBER

Caoimhe, Caitlin and Thyla took part in the annual District Sports Day at Pitreavie.

WSJ SELECTION, SEPTEMBER

Caoimhe applied for the East Scotland Region contingent selection camp for the World Scout Jamboree in West Virginia, USA in 2019. She was successful and has been offered a place on this the ultimate in Scout Camps. She deserves a "WELL DONE" from all, although for her the work is only beginning, with many training and fundraising events to take place in the months to come.

Tom





EXPLORER EXPLOITS

EXPLORERS

by Sophie Mair



In July, Abby, Kayleigh, Oliva, Mr Ness and I spent the first week of the summer holiday at Meggernie Scout Activity Centre (Bridge of Balgie, Glen Lyon). This is one the best camp sites ever in my opinion. No phone service though. We cooked absolutely delicious meals and drank a lot of tea. We went on a few half-day walks nearby which were beautiful, Olivia squealed that every animal we saw was cute, every single one. Sadly, despite the name of the camp (Summer!), there was hardly any sun and the weather wasn't good enough for a full day walk.

We went into Aberfeldy one day, where we got a nice lunch (and some phone service) at a café, then saw "Despicable Me 3". It was such an adorable community run cinema! ("The Birks", and cheaper than Odeon!) We got a chippy and then

headed back to the camp site. We also did some on-site activities, including rock-climbing (Kayleigh was by far the best at this), and archery. We also had a 'Camp Olympics', which consisted of softball, catch, and giant dominoes. The others also spent a lot of time sleeping in the afternoons, whilst I read. There was another group camping next to us, who invited us to one of their camp fire sing-alongs which was a great laugh. All in all, it was a really fun camp and I would love to go back.

Also, a visit to Europe's oldest tree, the ancient yew at Fortingall. A visit to the Crannog on Loch Tay and a walk to Clach Fhionn, the rock split by Fingal's arrow in time of legend. (see photos)





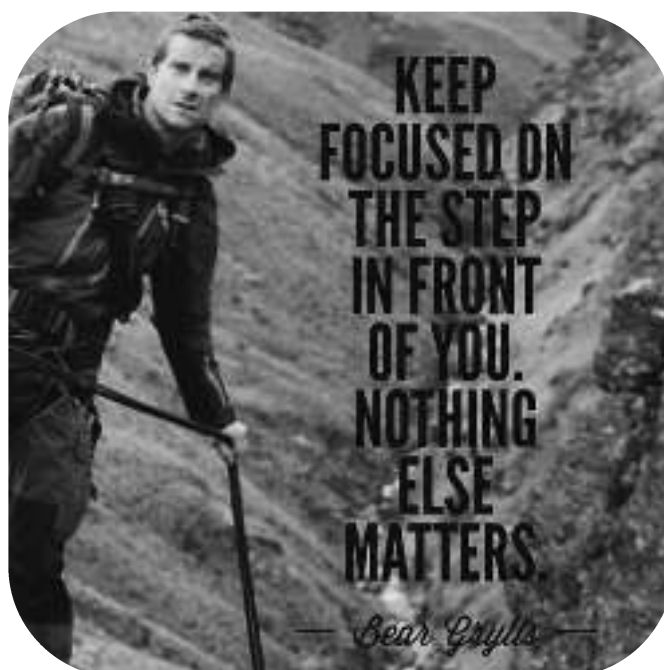
EXPLORER EXPLOITS

EXPLORERS⁺

by Sophie Mair



On the 16th of September, Olivia, Caoimhe, Mr Ness, Bill (Mr Ness 2.0) and I walked Glen Nevis. The original plan was to walk up Ben Nevis, but the weather looked pretty bad. So, instead of leaving at 6.30am, we left at 8am, a much more reasonable time. It was a long drive up, but the walk was beautiful and so worth the drive. We even walked across a steel rope bridge, which was a lot of fun and with a bit of coaxing Olivia made it across as well. No one hurt themselves, which was a miracle. However, on the way home as Mr Ness slammed on the brakes (totally the driver in front's fault), Olivia's sweets went flying all over the car (and are probably still rolling around under the seats), whoops! We arrived back at the Scout hall at 11pm, with Caoimhe sleeping on my shoulder. It's safe to say we all had a good night's sleep.





EXPLORER PHOTOS

EXPLORERS⁺

by Tom Ness

Group Camp



THANKS FOR THANKS

by David & Linda Langskail



We are very proud to have both been presented with the Scout Thanks Badge in recognition of our efforts in producing the Group quarterly magazine. Our new colour printed format, thanks to David Marr, has made the magazine easier to read and it was especially heart-warming for us to see it being read by even the youngest members of the Group, prior to the Annual General Meeting.

Scouting and especially the 39th has played a huge part in our lives since our boys joined way back in 1981. Through actively taking part in Group activities we have made lasting friendships and have so many funny and happy memories of camps, hikes, outings and Section nights.

We do appreciate any feedback on the magazine and welcome any suggestions for articles in the future.

Thank-You

David and Linda Langskail





SCOUTING UK NEWS

ESA astronaut, Tim Peake announced as new Scout Ambassador



We're delighted to announce that European Space Agency (ESA) astronaut, Major Tim Peake has been appointed as The Scout Association's newest Scout Ambassador.

Best known for spending 186 days on the International Space Station (ISS), he is also a former Cub Scout and an advocate of the power of Scouting to help young people develop skills for life.

Born and schooled in Chichester, West Sussex in 1972, he went on to Sandhurst in 1990. Tim beat over 9,000 other applicants for one of the six places on the European Space Agency's new astronaut training programme. He was launched to the ISS in December 2015 and participated in the first spacewalk outside the ISS by a British astronaut in January 2016. In April 2016, he ran the 2016 London Marathon from the ISS treadmill.

'Scouting started me on an incredible journey. As a Cub Scout I never dreamed that some day I would be looking at our beautiful planet from space. I went from spending nights under the stars to spending nights among the stars.' said Tim.

He added: 'Scouting set me on the right path at a young age because I loved the outdoors and I loved adventure. It gave me the opportunity to discover new interests, explore new boundaries and build the confidence to achieve new goals. Scouting was the first step on a journey that led to me becoming an astronaut. With the right people, the right attitude and the right skills, anything is possible.'

Since returning to Earth, Tim has worked to promote STEM careers, promoting space and science in schools.

Tim is joining Chief Scout Bear Grylls and his team of Ambassadors; Ellie Simmonds, Helen Glover, Anita Rani, Steve Backshall, Megan Hine, Chris Evans, Ed Stafford and Julia Bradbury to help promote Scouting nationally.





SCOUTING UK NEWS

10 reasons to volunteer in Scouting



1. There is always somebody to laugh at your terrible jokes.
2. You adopt a new family that never stops extending.
3. When you don't feel like you're good enough, there are people around you who think you're the best!
4. Your encouragement gives a young person hope.
5. Your support can put a smile on a young person's face when they are having a tough day.
6. By being you, you can teach others that it's ok to be themselves.
7. By becoming a leader you can lead young people on the adventure of a lifetime.
8. You become more than a volunteer, you become somebody's mentor.
9. You develop relationships that stand the test of time.
10. Your dedication to Scouting helps somebody to achieve awards!



