



COUNTY INFORMATION BULLETIN

THE NEWSLETTER FOR ALL COVENTRY SCOUTS AND SUPPORTERS



JANUARY 2012

**CONTACT EDITOR ON
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OR EMAIL GRAINWEYES@YAHOO.CO.UK**

Coventry's Proud to Scout Forum - 28 January 2012

Hope you have booked your place!

Closing date for applications to this FREE event was 14 January.

Special sessions have been arranged for Executive members to help them with their roles – too often the needs of these invaluable supporters are forgotten.

We appreciate how much time you already spend on Scouting, but this is an opportunity for you to network with other leaders across the scout county, learn about changes, and get help and an opportunity to share your experiences and ideas and come away inspired.

We hope to see you there.

Scouting comes back to Canley

In April 2012 the County's "Scouting Inspires – Coventry" three year project will be reintroducing Scouting into Canley. The project is funded partly by

an HQ grant (The Freemason's Grand Charity) and the County and is aimed at (re)introducing Scouting into areas of the city where presently we have no groups. Initially we will be forming a Beaver colony and a Cub pack, which will be satellite sections of another local scout group, which will also provide Executive support. We will be looking at the local community to provide most of the leadership team and hope they will form a separate group as and when they are ready.

Would you like to be involved in Canley or in another area of the city? There is an opportunity for present leaders to work alongside new leaders in the new sections. It's a great way to widen your experience and to share your passion and skills. Any commitment can be time-limited and flexible. Perhaps you can only spare a weekend to help run a residential experience. You may be an assistant who wishes to see what it's like to lead. You may have bags of programme ideas and be willing to help plan programmes. If you want to find out more, contact Chris Sherlock in the first instance. Chris can be contacted on 07906 904 847 or email chriss224@tiscali.co.uk



New CC – Graham Howe

During the Christmas holidays I met up with Graham Howe and took the opportunity to ask him some personal questions.

Graham, where did it all start – your scouting journey?

I still remember my cub scouting days in Selly Oak in Birmingham mainly because of the cap, socks, garter tabs and the games we played. When my sons started beavers and became cubs in Hall Green in the 1980's, I remember thinking how much scouting had developed and moved on.

My wife had become a Beaver Leader and had continued, because she enjoyed it so much, when the boys had moved to cubs. Ray and Sylvia (the cub leaders) had made me welcome. Originally I had stayed to help with my son's physical needs, but the camping, the activities and friendships all led to an ACSL warrant.

We moved to Leamington and continued to work with young people. Ann remained in scouting and I resumed my cub scouting after a break leading other youth work.

What do you enjoy most about scouting?

I think it has to be the working with other leaders. This is, however, followed very closely by seeing young people develop and grow in confidence.

What thrills you most?

Probably when I see young people, who have been through scouting, take up leadership roles. Although everything in scouting, which is undertaken wholeheartedly, has my utmost admiration.

What else have you been involved with?

Recently, I have been mainly involved with leader development. Training has always been very much on my heart. But other more "hands on" things include – gangs shows, group, district and county camps and events, work with Join in Jamboree, a Regional event for ACC's & ADC's, and work within the community for scouting.

What other interests do you have?

Family, faith and food (I have to work as a financial adviser for the last one!). With four children our family keeps extending, which is lovely. They all have very different vocations as well. The food one will be obvious when you meet me. I am very happy to be asked about the faith bit if you are interested.

How would you describe your leadership style?

Participative.

I hope other leaders who have worked with me share that view. I also recognise the importance of good communications to all leaders.

What do you hope to bring to the County?

Enthusiasm and a desire to enhance the image of Coventry as being “The Heart of Scouting”

What are you going to do first?

Be guided by Dave Hart. I do hope to meet, and get to know, the leadership teams for the county and districts, during the next few weeks.

What would you value most?

Fellowship and honesty.

What will we get from you?

Fellowship and honesty (I trust!)

What don't you like?

Watercress and long meetings!!!

So that is the outcome of the new County Commissioner's first interview – you must have many more questions you want to ask Graham, so please come along to the County Forum on Saturday 28th January, and meet Graham yourself.

Castle Mound Campsite

Coventry Girl Guides South invites you to consider an alternative camping location situated in Fillongley

CASTLE MOUND CAMPSITE is open to all Guides, Scouts and other recognised youth organisations. It offers an escape to the rural outdoors without being far from everything you need.

The site consists of a secluded camping field, large enough for 100 campers, and 2 adjoining activity fields. These include a campfire circle and the castle mound, which lends itself to wide games and other activities.

Facilities include a toilet block with disabled access and separate sections for male/female or Guide/Leader use; a dry shelter (32ft x 10ft); and a dining cabin (24ft x 10ft) with an equipped kitchen.

Outdoor cooking is on altar fires. Set in the centre of England in the lovely Warwickshire countryside, the site is suitable for Wide games, Fire-lighting, Pond dipping (in the stream) Wildlife searches. Archery can be arranged (please check with the booking secretary). Orienteering + Pioneering:

Further details can be found at the following:

http://www.coventrysouthguiding.org/castle_mound_camp_site.html

Off Castle Close, Coventry Road, Fillongley, Coventry CV7 8ET

O/S Sheet 140 Grid Reference SP 2887

Scouting Inspires

During the summer of 2011 24 young people from Coventry Scouts went to the World Jamboree in Sweden. They came back inspired by the experience as reported in the last newsletter in October 2011.

Have you thought of inviting the team to visit your group? Why not get in touch with Andy Morris, Sarah Miller or Sam Rowe and Inspire the next group of scouts for the Jamboree in 2015!

St. George's Day – 29 April 2012

The annual parade will again take place at the Memorial Park. The theme this year is “Scouting Inspires”. Would you like to be involved in the organisation of the presentation of this theme? To find out more, or volunteer, contact Chris Sherlock DCC.

Chris can be contacted on 07906 904 847 or email chriss224@tiscali.co.uk

No increase for Coventry Scout County Campers

We are once again happy to report a financially successful year for Rough Close with much funding still going into improvements and maintenance we can still show a small profit.

The Rough Close Committee hopes to gain County Executive approval to keep camping fees for Coventry Scouts at the same level for yet another year.

13th Coventry Marching Band Annual Inspection and Award Ceremony

On Sunday, February 5th, the 13th Group Marching Band will be holding their annual review in the ballroom at the Jaguar Sports and Social Club, Chorley Way, Capmartin Road, Radford. A full afternoon of musical entertainment is offered completely free of charge to anyone who is interested. The afternoon begins at 2.30 p.m. prompt with the arrival of the City's Lord Mayor and continues until around 4.30 p.m. Seating is available for around 150 spectators.



Rough Close Update

2011 celebrated the 65th Anniversary of our ownership of Rough Close. As most of you will be aware this was celebrated in some style with an open day, birthday cake and lots of visitors. Many of our visitors hadn't been to Rough Close for many years and were

greatly impressed with the work that has been and continues to be carried out.

2011 was another extremely busy year for Rough Close with more visitors and consequently more demands being put on the individuals working there.

During the year a lot of work has gone on weatherproofing some of our buildings, the McClean Centre (Storm Hut) has been over-roofed making it fully waterproof and has been clad in timbers giving it a completely new look.

Following the renovation of the George Sheppard Cabin this has now been insulated and over roofed with profiled metal sheets similar to the McClean Centre. The Guild Cabin has had the same treatment.

Following the lessons learnt from the severe weather encountered last winter a lot of work has gone into winterizing our buildings and the water supply to them.

Further work has been done on the Main Field to continue to have a good growth of grass for our many campers.

Continued maintenance has been carried out on various areas of Rough Close and its buildings and hopefully we have made every ones stay enjoyable and without incident.

Work continues to be done to provide better toilet facilities across Rough Close. As with the strategy put before the County Executive 12 months ago we are now about to replace the current Top Field toilet block with a larger block which will have showers installed. The block that was adjacent to the Top Field has been moved to provide facilities by the Adult Training Field and Cummwiddus. It has taken time to complete these tasks as we have been waiting both for suitable facilities to become available at the right price.

Our site is being used more during the week and during the dark winter months. The Campers Car Park has

been improved and illuminated with suitable lighting.

What of the Future

Many of you will be aware that Rough Close has been an ancient woodland dating back to the 15th century and although much work has been done some of it is in need of some maintenance to stimulate new growth and safer areas for our young people hopefully some of this work will start this year.

With the many improvements being made to the infrastructure of the campsite there is a need to improve our operation and management of Rough Close.

We hope to be able to trial and install an on-line booking system to enable better access to booking your camps and activities.

We also need to increase our behind the scenes staff, the ones we have work constantly from taking bookings, maintaining the site, running activities, manning the Trading Post and many other tasks both at weekends and during the week. We constantly review how we can improve but we do need more help.

Currently it is difficult to attract Grant Aid to continue to improve our activities and continue to improve buildings.

We are currently looking at installing a Climbing Tower, new High Rope legislation will affect its design and construction but hopefully this will come to fruition during 2012. Along with the Tower work is also being done to provide an Adventure Playground for our younger visitors, again funding is the main issue.

As all our visitors are aware the road up to Rough Close is always in need of attention. We are fortunate that the Community Unpaid Work Scheme continue to fill the potholes. We should point out to newer members of the County that more permanent solutions to this problem are not available to us as we don't own the road to Rough Close. We only own the wide area approaching Memorial Avenue.

One of our popular buildings has been Cummwiddus adjacent to the Adult Training Field. This is in urgent need of renovation and we have plans to thoroughly examine the current structure before deciding on its future, but it is very much in our planning schedules.

Again we need to appreciate the work being put into the whole of the Rough Close operation. We couldn't operate without the help of our Rough Close Crew, our midweek Adult Support Unit and the many people who are constantly trying to improve YOUR campsite.

If you could spare just a small amount of time to help please contact Nigel Stapleton at Rough Close.

Rough Close Needs You

As is common within Scouting all of the individuals that help at Rough Close are multi-tasking with other commitments within front line Scouting.

From our Warden also being County Secretary to our many Crew members who lead Explorer Units within the County.

Sometimes in order to achieve all of these commitments we find ourselves struggling for help at weekends.

You and Flexible Volunteering

In order to alleviate some of the problems we can incur we would like to offer the flexible volunteering option.

The plan would be to recruit four teams of individuals who would make a commitment to join one of these teams, their commitment could be from one day per month or whatever time they can manage. These teams would have set tasks over the weekend; they would be free to attend on any other weekend as long as they adhered to their committed weekend. Obviously as with any flexible role if necessary weekends could be swapped within the teams.

Any person volunteering in this manner would have the opportunity to add to their personal skills by being trained in the operation of our activities. The tasks could run from helping operate our busy Trading Post, taking bookings for the weekend to guiding groups to their campsite along with some of our more menial tasks such as keeping our campsite clean and tidy...

If any volunteers are currently in Explorer Units or Scout Network the time committed to will count for Service towards Queen Scout and Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

What's in it for you?

Being part of such a team will offer satisfaction in knowing that you have helped other Scouts in their experiences at Rough Close. Perhaps you have always wanted to drive a tractor being a volunteer will offer further opportunities and add to you lists of skills when seeking further employment elsewhere.

As with all activities within Scouting it will offer friendship and fun within the Scouting movement.

What will we do for you?

We will provide accommodation for you over the weekend as necessary. We will offer you the opportunity to learn more skills such as Archery Instruction, Crate Climbing and Rifle Range Instruction.

We will accredit you with any time spent volunteering for Queen Scout and Duke of Edinburgh Award Service.

Who can apply?

Anyone can apply to help, Over 18's who are not Scout Network members

can become members of the Rough Close Active Support Unit, and as with all adults within the movement we will need an understanding of the Scout Associations Child Safeguarding Policy.

Anyone under 18 will become members of the Rough Close Junior Crew

How to apply

Should you be able to commit some of your time to help join such a team at Rough Close please contact either Nigel Stapleton at Rough Close or email davidwhart@btopenworld.co.uk

Are you struggling for something to do with your colony, pack, unit or group in March or want to do something different then why not take them along to watch their friends on the stage at the Belgrade Theatre for this year's Gang show. Held every year at the Coventry's Belgrade Theatre, the Scouts of Coventry put on a spectacular night of entertainment. Known as the UK's Premier Gang Show we offer you a fun filled evening with Music, Singing, Dancing and Comedy for all the family. Looking for things to do....Come and See us in March 2012



The show runs from Wednesday 14th March until Saturday 17th March. Evening performances start at 7:15pm and the matinee performance starts at 2:15pm

Ticket prices are:

Adults £13-50
Wednesday to Saturday.
Children under 16 yrs
£8.00 Wednesday to
Saturday matinée
OAP £9.00 Wednesday to
Saturday matinee
Saturday evening all
tickets are £13-50
Group bookings by 20

tickets get 1 free.

Tickets can be purchased through the Gang Show booking secretary Bill Hudspith, 54 Duke Barnfield, Coventry, CV2 4QZ or by contacting the Belgrade theatre www.belgrade.co.uk or 024 76553055.

Booking forms are available on page 11 of this issue of the newsletter.

Please support us by being a member of the audience and encouraging others to watch the show.

Training diary 2012 Issue B			
Date	Module number	Venue	Presenter
Jan 7 th	Wood Beads Cafe	George Sheppard Cabin	Charterhouse
Jan 7 th	5&6 Values & Changes	George Sheppard Cabin	5&6 Dave Gadsby
Jan 11 th	Getting Started	7 th Scout Headquarters	Caludon
Jan 21 st	7,8&9 diversity, leadership, working with Adults	George Sheppard Cabin	7 Damien Fell 8 Mike Pitham 9 Neil Adcock
Feb 4 th	Wood Beads Cafe	George Sheppard Cabin	Caledon
Feb 4 th	25 Assessing Learning (TA)	George Sheppard Cabin	Josie Gadsby
Feb 10 th	Getting Started	Radford Road Fire Station	Charterhouse
Feb 19 th	First Aid module 10	8 th HQ	Bob Tansey
Feb 25 th	11,19 &16 Admin (Section leaders) international Nights away	Retreat Rough Close	11 Rosemaire Evans 19 Sarah Miller 16 Neil Adcock
Mar 3 rd	Wood Beads Cafe	George Sheppard Cabin	Bablake
Mar 3 rd	14 &15 Young people today, challenging behavior	George Sheppard Cabin	14 Mike Pitham 15 John Payne
Mar 5 th	Getting Started	Hearsall Baptist Church	Bablake
Mar 24 th	20&22 Admin Managers Sectional support	Retreat Rough Close	20 Dave Preston 22 Dave Hart
Mar 31 st	Wood Beads Cafe	Retreat Rough Close	Charterhouse
April 1 st	First Aid module 10	8 th HQ	Bob Tansey
May 9 th	Getting Started	Radford Road Fire Station	County
May 9 th	25-Assessing Learning (TA) evening part 1	8 th HQ	Josie Gadsby
May 12 th	13 Growing the movement (Section Leaders)	Retreat Rough Close	13 Neil Adcock & Ashley Hyde
May 12 th	Wood Beads Cafe	Retreat Rough Close	Caledon
May 13 th	First Aid module 10	8 th HQ	Bob Tansey
May 16 th	25-Assessing Learning (TA) evening part 2	8 th HQ	Josie Gadsby
May 26 th	17 &18 Outdoor activities, Practical Skills	Retreat Rough Close	17 Stuart Mosley 18 Roger Brown
June 13 th	Getting Started	7 th Scout Headquarters	Caledon
June 16 th	Executive training	7 th Scout Headquarters	Neil Adcock Brian Beaver Dave Gadsby
June 24 th	First Aid module 10	8 th HQ	Bob Tansey
June 30 th	Wood Beads Cafe	Radford Road Fire Station	Bablake
June 30 th	23&24/26 Safety for Mangers, Supporting/Managing Adults	Radford Road Fire Station	23 Dave Hart 24/26 Dave Preston
July 11 th	Getting Started	St Mary Magdalene Church	Bablake
July 21 st	12 Balanced Programme	Radford Road Fire Station	John Payne
July 21 st	Wood Beads Cafe	Radford Road Fire Station	Charterhouse
July 28 th	First Aid module 10	8 th HQ	Bob Tansey
Sept 3 rd	Getting Started	74 th Scout Headquarters	Charterhouse
Sept 8 th	Wood Beads Cafe	Retreat Rough Close	Bablake
Sept 8 th	5&6 Values & Changes	Retreat Rough Close	5&6 Dave Gadsby
Sept 15 th &16 th	38 Part 1	Norton Cabin, Rough Close	Roger Brown Neil Adcock Mike Pitham
Sept 16 th	First Aid module 10	8 th HQ	Bob Tansey
Oct 5 th	Getting Started	St Mary Magdalene Church	Bablake
Oct 6 th & 7 th	Coventry Scouts Skills Weekend	Mclean Centre and Retreat	Rosie Evans Brian Beaver Neil Adcock
Oct 20 th & 21 st	38 Part 2 (Provisionally Green Field)	Norton Cabin, Rough Close	Roger Brown Neil Adcock Mike Pitham
Oct 27 th	Wood Beads Cafe	George Sheppard Rough Close	Charterhouse
Oct 27 th & 28 th	First Aid Remote Access	Rough Close	Bob Tansey
Nov 10 th	Wood Beads Cafe	George Sheppard Roughclose	Caludon
Nov 10 th	25	George Sheppard Roughclose	Josie Gadsby
Nov 21 st	Getting Started	7 th Scout Headquarters	Caledon
Nov 24 th	21 Growing the Movement (Managers)	George Sheppard Cabin	Gilwell support
Dec 1 st	First Aid module 10	8 th HQ	Bob Tansey
Dec 5 th	Getting Started	Radford Road Fire Station	County
Dec 8 th	Wood Beads Cafe	George Sheppard Rough Close	Bablake

And finally a few words from our CC Dave Hart



This will probably be the last input I will have to the bulletin as County Commissioner. I can honestly say it has been an absolute honour to serve you and the City of Coventry Scout County.

In 2003 Mark Waterstreet, then County Commissioner, asked me to become one of his Deputy County Commissioners. On taking up this position Mark, Chris Sherlock and I decided that the County should operate in a very open manner. A policy which I hope we continue today.

There have been many high points and a few low points during that time. We had decreasing numbers, financial instability and lacked motivation. Mark Waterstreet started to increase the motivation and with the help of everyone in the County our numbers started to improve. When in 2007 Mark

went on to become Regional Commissioner for the West Midland region I was appointed as new County Commissioner. It was a privilege to follow the legacy that had been laid down.

Obviously we have had some low times, the passing of valued members of the county left holes to fill. With difficulty these have been filled. Our decline in numbers last year was disappointing but I am sure is a blip in our record recruitment over the previous years.

We went for some time without all three District Commissioners but we have recruited and now have a full complement and Districts are operating well with many varied activities.

Our increase in numbers over the period 2004 to 2010 was a remarkable achievement and the increase in sections within groups was a great reward for the innovations put in by the Development Team and groups to attract more young people to our movement.

One of the major highlights was seeing the County celebrate the Scout Associations centenary in 2007, our Promise renewal in Priory Place with the Lord Mayor of Coventry and unexpectedly attended by a Troop of Scouts from the U.S.A.

Over the last four years we have managed to send two major contingents to the World Jamborees. I hope these memories will live with these young people all their lives.

The quality of Scouting in Coventry has improved which is down to you as leaders and to the Training team who have seen record numbers of leaders attain their Wood-Beads.

There is still a lot of work to do and I am sure all our young people will remember their skills learnt in Scouting.

Along with this we have been fortunate in being able to attract funding for our camp-site Rough Close. Due to various problems Rough Close had suffered years of neglect and in 2002/3 the cry went out 'use it or lose it'. You the County decided to use it and major plans were put in place to improve a campsite we had owned for 50 years.

One of the major highlights at Rough Close was being involved with the obtaining of funding and the subsequent construction of the Norton Cabin. The provision of this facility was a major step forward and came at a time when if we were to keep Rough Close we needed this type of improvement.

A high point in the development of Rough Close is that it now shows a profit for the County instead of loses as suffered in the past.

Coventry Scout County has always been able to provide alternative activities for our members. It has been great to be able to support the Coventry Gang Show over this period, it is a tremendous opportunity for young people to learn more skills, raise their confidence levels by appearing on stage at the Belgrade Theatre.

We can also boast of two Scout Bands which also give young people further opportunities.

When it comes to some of our core activities we have a strong team able to help provided the skills necessary to run exceptional outdoor activities such as backwoods living, camping etc. Over the last 10 years we have built up an activity team whose members have National Governing Body qualifications. This enables members to take part in training and carrying out activities on mountains and water.

We have managed to keep a stable county administrative team which has meant with prudent management we have been able to continue for the last two years without increasing the County element of the annual membership fee.

I would thank everyone in the County for supporting me in my time as County Commissioner, we may be a small county both geographically and in numbers but we have a big heart. We are able to offer many opportunities to our young people and any more who wish to join us.

I hope that Graham Howe, our incoming County Commissioner, will continue to receive the support afforded to myself and continue to keep Coventry Scout County in the centre of the Scouting map.

I look forward to meeting you all again in whatever role I take up in the future, again thank you, it has been a privilege to be your County Commissioner.

Dave Hart
County Commissioner

COVENTRY GANG SHOW
14th March – 17th March 2012
Belgrade Theatre
Booking form

Name.....

Address.....

Tel. No.....

All tickets include the NVC charged by The Belgrade Theatre
 NVC....None Voluntary Contribution

		STALLS	No	CIRCLE	No	BOX	NO	
Wednesday	Adults	£13.50		£13.50		£54.00		£
	CHILD	£8.00		£8.00				
	OAP	£9.00		£9.00				
Thursday	ADULTS	£13.50		£13.50		£54.00		£
	CHILD	£8.00		£8.00				
	OAP	£9.00		£9.00				
Friday	ADULTS	£13.50		£13.50		£54.00		£
	CHILD	£8.00		£8.00				
	OAP	£9.00		£9.00				
Saturday Matinee	ADULTS	£13.50		£13.50		£54.00		£
	CHILD	£8.00		£8.00				
	OAP	£9.00		£9.00				
Saturday Evening	ADULTS	£13.50		£13.50		£54.00		£
	CHILD	£13.50		£13.50				
	OAP	£13.50		£13.50				

TOTAL £

PARTY BOOKINGS

BUY 20 TICKETS GET 1 FREE

Alternative tickets will be sent if those ordered are unavailable

All babies and small children must be paid for

Concessions are for Senior Citizens and Children under 16

Credit Card Bookings 024 7655 3055

Special Requirements.....

Payment must accompany all orders

Cheques/Po/Mo made Payable to **Coventry Gang Show Ltd**

Please return as soon as possible to:

Mr. W Hudspith 54, Duke Barn Field Coventry CV2 4QZ

Editorial

I hope you enjoy reading this edition of the County Newsletter. Please feel free to pass on your copy once you have read it to anyone else who may be interested in Scouting in Coventry.

We are entering a new phase of Scouting with the appointment of our new County Commissioner, Graham Howe, who takes up his appointment on 1st March 2012.

I would like you to join me and thank Dave Hart for all the hard work he has put into Coventry Scouting during his tenure as CC over the last 5 years – Many thanks Dave!

The closing date for articles, adverts, photographs etc for the next newsletter will be May 1st 2012.

I am currently updating the website so if you know of an error or omission please contact me on - grainweyes@yahoo.co.uk and I will make the necessary amendments.

If you have any ideas for further pages on the website please drop me a note.

Trading Post

For all your Scouting needs, Uniforms, Badges, Training Books and Souvenirs

Situated at our own camp site Rough Close

**The Trading Post is open
Saturdays 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. and
Sunday's 10.00 a.m. to midday.**

You can email your orders to

David.miller@coventryscouts.org.uk
Or go to www.coventryscouts.org.uk/BandT/

County contact details:

County Commissioner

countycommissioner@coventryscouts.org.uk

County Secretary

countysecretary@coventryscouts.org.uk

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