

Answers to the Christmas Quiz are below. The response from leaders and supporters was disappointing with only one entry received and as this person gained the most correct answers they have been awarded the £20.00 gift voucher for use in the Trading Post at Rough Close. Congratulations go to Chris Hooper who upon presentation of their Appointment Card will receive goods to the value of £20.00.

- Who was the first British monarch to broadcast a Christmas message to the nation? **George the Fifth** (in 1932)
- Child star Jimmy Boyd sang which hugely popular 1950's Christmas song, which was initially banned by the Catholic Church in Boston because it supposedly mixed sex and Christmas? **I saw Mommy kissing Santa Claus**
- Who banned Christmas in England between 1647 and 1660? **Oliver Cromwell**
- On which date is Epiphany celebrated in the traditional Western calendar? **6th January**
- Who are the four ghosts in Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol? **Christmas Past, Christmas Present, Christmas Yet to Come, and Jacob Marley** (one point for each correctly named ghost, and a bonus point for all four)
- What liqueur goes into making a 'snowball' cocktail? **Advocaat** (or advokatt, pronounced 'advocar' - normally a blend of brandy, egg yolks, vanilla and sometimes other ingredients - award yourself a bonus point if you dare order one next time you go to the bar.)
- What is the English title of the carol written in 1818 by Austrian priest Josef Mohr originally called Stille Nacht? **Silent Night**
- The Nordic countries (Denmark, Sweden, Norway notably) tend to celebrate Christmas chiefly on which date? **24th December**
- Which US state in 1907 was the last to declare Christmas a legal holiday? **Oklahoma**
- Presepe in Italy refers to what Christmas tradition? **Nativity scene** (literally meaning crib)
- Christmas Crackers is cockney rhyming slang for which part of the male anatomy? **Testicles** (see [knacker origins](#) - related to the very old word for a horse slaughterer.)
- What is the popular name for little baked sausages wrapped in rashers of streaky bacon? **Pigs in blankets**
- Which of the Wise Men was said to have brought the gift of gold for the baby Jesus? **Melchior**
- The 1954 movie White Christmas was the first to be made using what new Paramount film format? **VistaVision**
- Which river did George Washington cross on Christmas night in 1776 in the American Revolutionary War? **Delaware**
- What changed in 1752 which caused Britain to have a White Christmas less frequently thereafter? **The calendar** (the adoption of the Gregorian calendar, replacing the Julian calendar, shifted Christmas day back 12 days - and all the other days too of course - 11 days were skipped in 1752 and a further day in 1800.)
- Traditional in Germany at Christmas, what sort of food is stollen? **Cake**
- According to the UK National Meteorological Office what year (prior to 2007) was the last White Christmas in Britain? **2004**
- The Christmas period of 1813-14 saw the last what in London? **Christmas Fair on a frozen River Thames** (known as a Frost Fair)
- How many gifts are given in total in the song The Twelve Days of Christmas? **364**
- The words "Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume breathes of life, of gathering gloom..." come from which Christmas carol? **We Three Kings of Orient Are** (composed by Rev John Henry Hopkins, 1857)
- Christmas Island in the Indian Ocean is a territory of which country? **Australia**
- Which diarist noted on 25th December 1662, "(Christmas Day). Had a pleasant walk to White Hall, where I intended to have received the communion with the family, but I have come too late..." **Samuel Pepys** (pronounced 'peeps')
- The USA's official National Christmas Tree is in which National Park? **King's Canyon National Park, California** (a giant sequoia called The General Grant)
- John Callcott Horsley designed what first commercial Christmas item in 1843? **Christmas card**
- In Victorian England what people were popularly called robins because of their red uniforms? **Postmen**
- Which popular poem was alternatively known as A Visit from St Nicholas? **'Twas The Night before Christmas** ('Twas the night Before Christmas' is also the first line. The poem was first published anonymously in 1823 and is commonly attributed to Clement Clarke Moore, although some believe Henry Livingston was the true author. This different to the song Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer. Rudolph was created in 1939 by copywriter Robert May for the Montgomery Ward department store chain in a free Christmas promotional story. This extended the 1823 poem and was later still developed into the Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer song.)
- Which token vegetable is often included in the ingredients of a Christmas pudding? **Carrot** (vegetables were in earlier times used in making Christmas puddings)
- What animal is Snowball in George Orwell's book Animal Farm? **A pig**
- Yorkshireman William Strickland is believed to have brought the first what to Britain from North America in 1526? **Turkey**



Welcome to the August 2010 County Newsletter

Over the last four or five months many things have happened in the county, with perhaps the development of the County Contingent to the World Scout Jamboree 2011 in Sweden one of the most exciting.

We started with a part group of Scouts from Coventry consisting of 18 young people and 2 leaders. Following a dropout from British Scouts overseas Coventry was offered the opportunity to fill a further 9 young people places and an additional leader. Much discussion to this event was given by the county executive committee to clarify the extent of this additional commitment, both financially and practically.



With the financial commitment of £2000.00 for each participant the discussion centred on the availability of funding if fundraising events were not successful. After careful consideration and acceptance that the young people

and their parents would meet the target the executive committee agreed to extend the group to a full contingent party of 27 young people and 3 leaders.

Further information on the group's fundraising events will be published on the County Website as they become available. These young people need all the support we can realistically give them in attending the experience of their lifetime!



Rough Close

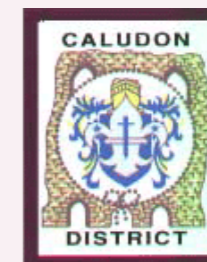
Major developments have taken place at Rough Close OUR campsite to the south of the City. The new toilet block is now open for use and the area between the block and The Retreat has been re-ramped. Further details are on page 2 of the newsletter, but why not go and see for yourself! One of the complaints of leaders in the past was the lack of adequate facilities and the horrendous road to the site. Both of these have been addressed and are no longer an excuse for avoiding the site. Let your young people experience the outdoors on our very own doorstep.

District Commissioner

Success

After some months of trying to recruit two District Commissioners we can now announce that we now have two joining Gary Colledge to make a full set.

Joining Gary we have



Clive Bennett for Bablake and Simon Smith



for Charterhouse. Both will need time to be fully



up to speed but with the support of the Regional Development Team and the County team they will soon be up and running.

Cont. on page 2

WE NOW HAVE A FULL COMPLEMENT OF DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS IN THE COUNTY. GARY COLLEDGE (CALUDON) IS JOINED BY CLIVE BENNETT (BABLAKE) AND SIMON SMITH (CHARTERHOUSE)

DAVE HART CC

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Communication

Communication is one of the biggest problems we have within the County and although we try to keep all leaders up to date by the web-site, bulletin's etc. there is no replacement for talking to each other. Having been acting D.C. for two districts it's disappointing to see that invariably groups are not represented at District leader meetings where most of the information is disseminated. If we are to fully support our new D.C's please ensure that at least one leader represents your group at such meetings.



Where individuals wish to be communicated by email could you please ensure your email address is on the national database. If you have difficulty doing this please ask your District secretary for assistance.



Census 2010

The County is to be congratulated on the recent census figures our 6% young person increase is twice that of the National average and our 11% adult increase is unprecedented. Congratulations to all leaders on producing programmes that inspire young and old to join our Movement.

Some credit must go to the activities of our Development group who put in their time to Festivals, field days promoting Scouting across the County.



The use of a county wide Young Person Membership secretary also helps the D.C's deal with the 'want to join' enquiries coming to us from Gilwell.

Dave Hart CC

DO YOU NEED LEADERS?

The development team can help you to:

- Reassess your group's/sections needs
- Plan an event involving the parents of your members
- Plan an event involving the wider public, or
- Join in with a fête or festival

What help do you need?

The Development steering group can help sections, groups and districts by

- offering advice
- giving practical assistance,
- demonstrating the types of literature, posters etc. that are available,
- requesting help and guidance from HQ and
- giving support with their development.

Information and help is available in;

- Flexible volunteering
- Recruiting parents
- Recruiting young people, leaders, managers and helpers
- How to talk to adults
- How to use adults effectively

The main purpose of the group is not to specifically organise and run the Roadshow at Festivals etc. It is to assist and advise districts and groups in the Development of Scouting in their area. Development being measured in Quality, Opportunity as well as in numbers.

As a group we cannot help effectively if we don't have the input from each district.

Ideally we would like each district to appoint/elect one or two representatives. These would help us to understand the needs of each district and help us to focus on areas of most need. District and group involvement in both the organisation and manning of the recruitment tent is essential if local needs are to be addressed. Group recruitment is the responsibility of the group therefore group involvement is necessary for the right recruitment to be achieved.

Next meeting -13th September at The Holly Bush.

Contact Chris Sherlock DCC for more information on chriss224@tiscali.co.uk

Adult Training—A Leaders perspective

Those of you who follow the training home page on the County Website will be used to my ramblings. So I thought it might a pleasant change for all parties if I were to shut up (I can hear thunderous applauds already), and let some of the people who actually do the training give their opinions.

So I would like to introduce 2 leaders June Tossell a Cub scout Leader with the 47th in Caledon district June joined the movement in 2008 with little prior scouting experience. June has progressed well with her training and has to attend and validate her nights away course to complete her wood badge.

Our second leader is Lynne Payne a Cub Scout Leader with the 53rd in Bablake District, Lynne comes from a scouting family and has just received a 25 year service award, and will complete her wood badge on completing her first response training meeting.

Ladies, how have you found the training?

June: Fun, good enjoyed it a lot

Lynne: Initially I felt de-motivated at being ask to document everything, however being able to cover items by discussion has improved things a lot

Was the training relevant?

June: Oh yes definitely, and its improved the Scouting I can deliver to the young people.

Lynne: Yes especially for a leader new to Scouting, I have also found it reassuring that the training has shown that I am still implementing good practice

Did you find you had to do a lot of additional work to complete your training?

June : No I have not had lots of work to do at all

Lynne: Initially yes, as I was asked to produce large amounts of documentation, but latterly this has improved with more being completed by discussion

How have you found access to the courses?

June Easy, with the exception of the first aid courses which was a little difficult to get onto

Lynne: Given my experience I have not had to do much in the way of courses although, I did have difficulty getting onto one course due to a number of cancellations

What could be improved about the training experience?

June: Perhaps more information at the beginning would be good

Lynne: a more flexible approach from the word go would have been more appropriate given my experience

Any recommendations to anyone starting out on their training?

June: Start early and get guidance from a training adviser

Lynne: Start looking at the modules early. Get other leaders in your group to help you out. Make sure you visit the Woods Bead Café to talk to a training advisor.

So as you can see, we are not perfect, but we are making great efforts to improve. Most leaders find completing their training is not that difficult, After all, for the majority of leaders delivering quality Scouting week in and week out, and it validating your training should be simply structuring the material you produce as a matter of course and discussing it with a training adviser so come along to the next wood beads cafe and give it a go.

Neil Adcock

County Training Manager

NEXT SAFEGUARDING TRAINING - 21st September at 36/51st HQ Hearsall Lane



County Growth
6% young person increase is twice that of the National average and our 11% adult increase is unprecedented.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY 2011

CITY OF COVENTRY SCOUT COUNTY

**St GEORGES DAY
CELEBRATIONS**WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY 17th APRIL 2011
AT THE WAR MEMORIAL PARK**St George's Celebration 2011**

We will soon be starting to organise next year's St George's Celebration, which will be on Sunday 17 April 2011. The nearest Sunday to St. George's Day itself is Easter Sunday. As in the previous two years we want our young members (and their leaders) to take an active part in the celebration in the arena. If you have any suggestions as to the theme for next year's celebration or would like your young members to perform a short display on stage, or anyone else who would like to contribute to the organisation of the event please contact Chris Sherlock or Dave Hart. Remember—it's YOUR celebration!

Continued from front page

DC Team ...

Clive is well known throughout the County as being a former producer of Gang Show and the work he has been doing with Val Morris regarding Safeguarding.

Simon is currently a Group Chairman with the 89th Group in Charterhouse.

I hope that all leaders in the County will support these appointments.

Dave Hart**Situations Vacant****International Commissioner**

With more Groups and Units traveling abroad and the need for more international flavored programmes there is a need for us to have a person who can help provide for these specialist activities.

Ian Coates our current International Commissioner is leaving us after many years to take up a change in employment. Ian has also been musical director for the Coventry Gang Show for many years as well as Scout leader of the 85th Scout Group. WE will all be sorry to see Ian leave but we do wish him well in his new career.

Network Scouts

Since the introduction of Network Scouts Coventry has had massive success. In the last five years this has been due to the work of Simon Pinches our Network Commissioner who has instigated the forming of Networks at both Warwick and Coventry Universities. Also the success of the Coventry Network Festival held at Rough Close over the last five years.

Coventry has certainly led the way for Network Scouts in the West Midlands

Simon is stepping away from this role to take up other positions within the County and we therefore need to look for another dynamic Network Commissioner who can inspire young people who are leaving Explorer Scouts at 18 and wish to continue their scouting.

A search group will be set up within the County to find such a person who can fill such a role.

Young Person Forum

As part of the Strategic Objectives previously mention we have to try to find young people who will eventually continue to take the County forward.

We will be encouraging each District to involve younger people in the running of Districts and we will set up such a forum on a County basis. If you are interested in being part of this team please contact the County Commissioner.

**The Bigger Picture**

Are you interested in promoting the International dimension of our Youth Programme?

City of Coventry Scout County is looking to recruit an Assistant County Commissioner (International)
Further information can be obtained from the County Commissioner or from fact sheet 330004

City of Coventry Scout County

Visit the Counties own

'Trading Post'

For all you're Scouting needs

Uniforms

Badges

Training Books

Souvenirs

Situated at our own camp site Rough Close

The Trading Post is open;

Saturdays 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.

Sunday's 10.00 a.m. to midday.

You can email your orders to

David.miller@coventryscouts.org.uk

Contact details:
 County Office
 Rough Close Camp site
 Tanners Lane
 Coventry

Phone 08450945921
 Email scoutcov3@tiscali.co.uk
 website
 www.coventryscouts.org.uk

Training Diary

Module Number	Date	Venue
Nights Away (Part 1) Modules 16,17 18 and 19	4th September	Norton Cabin Rough Close
Getting Started	21st September	74th HQ
Wood Beads Cafe	25th September	Guild Cabin Rough Close
Training Advisers Forum	25th September	Guild Cabin Rough Close
County Skills Weekend	2nd and 3rd October	MacClean Centre Rough Close
Nights Away (Part 2) Modules 16, 17, 18 and 19	8th—10th October	Norton Cabin Rough Cose
Assessing Learning Module 25	9th October	8th HQ

Editorial

As editor of the County Newsletter I wish to explain why it has been some time since the last issue. The Newsletter is only as good as the information received from leaders and supporters in the County as I can only 'edit' material sent to me. I have delayed this issue in the hope of more information being forthcoming, but have generally had to rely upon information from the County Commissioner and the County Training Manager. (There must be other things happening out there)

If you have information that would be useful for others to see then please send it to me, in good time, for it to be included in the newsletter. Pictures as well as words are welcome.

In the last newsletter I indicated that I would like to expand the content of the newsletter to include other items such as 'For Sale and Wanted' and as well as obituaries how about births and marriages?

Has your group or district received an award or been challenged over the last few months or may be looking forward to a special event, then let the rest of the County be aware of it - send in a story and picture for publishing.

Send all information and news to me at grainweyes@yahoo.co.uk.

OBITUARIES

Since the last issue of the County newsletter we have received news of the sad passing of Betty Moore ACSL 41st Coventry who died on Feb.25th.

Betty was a leader for 30 years and was always a keen swimmer and took part in District swimming Galas for many years and will be sadly missed.

Rough Close



The work and the ideas never seem

to stop.

With the recent opening of the new toilet block and the old block being demolished the whole of the area in the front of the Rough Close Retreat has been developed into a mainly vehicle free open area. The centre piece currently being a flower bed and flag pole. There are lights to illuminate the total area.

There is also a larger toilet block installed at the top of the Top Field providing better facilities to those camping adjacent to it.

Another success is the installation of the new Crate Stacking facility. It is now safer and easier to run than the old facility. Additional equipment has been provided for this popular activity. The Service crew have put in a lot of time in training to use this safely with the help of the County Activity team.



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Another popular activity back in use is the Pedal Cars. This activity had to be curtailed due to the building of the new toilet block. The cars have been repaired and we are again fully operational.

Roy Morris, President of Charterhouse has again managed to attract further funding for future developments. The latest being £8K to re-roof and renovate the MacClean Centre (Storm Hut).

Visit the site to see the new roof for yourself

There is still a lot to do if we are to continue to make the Rough Close camp site a site to be proud of. Major projects that need completing are;

- Provision of new bunks in the Norton Cabin, this will give a better use of space in the dormitories.
- Refurbishment of the toilets adjacent to Cummwiddus
- Refurbishment of Cummwiddus.

If you are able to offer some time, expertise to help with these projects please contact either Dave Hart or Dave Atkin both will be very pleased to hear from you.

