

Brownsea Island PL Camp 26th - 28th July 2007

by Andy Rooke from Highcliffe Scouts

I have just returned from Brownsea Island where I represented the Highcliffe Scouts at the Patrol Leaders camp that officially started the Brownsea Centenary Celebrations. The objective of the event was to gain participation from each county and area in the UK with some international guests to give a truly international experience.

We all travelled across to brownsea on the ferry from Poole Quay on 26th July. We travelled in two boats and they were very low in the water with all our rucksacks! We were split into four sub camps on arrival and I was in the Ravens Patrol. We had red t-shirts, light blue Brownsea nerckerchiefs and blue hats that made us all very distinctive!

We were kept busy through the three days and enjoyed making new friends and earning the Brownsea Island friendship badge. We made coracles and sailed in them, we did archery; we discovered new skills in the World Tents and took part in music, craft and dance workshops.

We had two fantastic nights of entertainment "World Carnival" and "This is Your Scouting Life" with live bands and entertainers. We had a tour round the Dorset Wildlife nature reserve and we helped to clear rhododendrons as our contribution to Brownsea conservation work. It was a fantastic experience and we all ate together and enjoyed food from all over the globe!



Ravens Sub Camp



Raven's Funky Dance



Everyone in the main marquee



Ravens Group planning an activity



Me returning from PL Camp



At a special ceremony on 30th October George Worden from Burton became the 64th Mayor's Scout of Christchurch. George took over from Jame Mainwaring from Bransgore. The picture shows George receiving his sash of office from the Mayor.



George was then given the honour of representing the District at the Live 07 National Festival of Scouting at the o2 Arena in London on 24th November. George proudly waved the special District Banner and did us all proud during both performances as a member of a 3000 strong cast in front of over 20,000 people!

CHRISTCHURCH DISTRICT



The banner design (shown above) was based on the winning flowerbed design by James Kay from Mudeford.



Diary of forthcoming events

District Development Day	Saturday 5th January	1.00pm	CSC
All Scouters Meeting	Thursday 10th January	7.30pm	CSC
Sixers and Seconders Party	Saturday 26th January	3.00pm	Matchams Ski Centre
Scout Cooking Competition	Sunday 27th January	9.00am	tbc
Cub Scrapstore Challenge	Thursday 7th February	6.00pm	CSC
Beaver Christmas Party	Saturday 9th February	2.00pm	tbc
Town Scouts 100 Year Service	Sunday 10th February	3.00pm	Christchurch Priory
Fellowship Quiz	Friday 15th February	7.00pm	Christchurch Junior School
Fellowship Skittles Evening	Monday 3rd March	7.30pm	Hoburne Park
First Response Course (part 1)	Wednesday 5th March	7.00pm	Braggers Wood
District Cub Hike	Saturday 8th March	9.00am	tbc
First Response Course (part 2)	Wednesday 12th March	7.00pm	Braggers Wood
Mayor's Scout Selection Interviews	Thursday 13th March	7.00pm	CSC
Gang Show - "A view to a thrill"	27th -29th March	various	Regent Centre
All Scouters Meeting	Thursday 17th April	7.30pm	CSC

Awards

Congratulations to all those listed below who have received awards from the Chief Scout recently.



The Chief Scout's Commendation for Meritorious Conduct

In recognition of his quick thinking and common sense when some fellow scouts capsized from their canoes and got into difficulties, he took them across to the opposite river bank on the side of his canoe and kept them calm throughout. 22nd. June 2007, River Stour

Max Allen-Smith, Scout - 8th Christchurch (Burton), 13th September 2007



10 year service certificate

Awarded in recognition of 10 years adult service to Scouting

Kath Carter. ASL - 5th Christchurch (Highcliffe), 20th November 2007



Wood Badge

Awarded in recognition of completion of adult training

Crispin Farbrother, ASL - 6th Christchurch (Bransgore), 23rd August 2007

Brian Boyes, ASL - 6th Christchurch (Bransgore), 23rd August 2007

Philip Akred, ASL - 6th Christchurch (Bransgore), 23rd August 2007

Carol Ward, ADC (Adult Support), 24th August 2007

Ron Salinger, ACSL - 5th Christchurch (Highcliffe), 24th August 2007

New County Commissioner

I am delighted to advise you that Mike Parkes will take over as County Commissioner with effect from the 1st January 2008 when James' steps down from the post. Mike has been District Commissioner for East Dorset for the last three years.

The contact details for Mike are as follows:

Mike Parkes

330 Ringwood Road, Ferndown, Dorset. BH22 9AT

Home - 01202 861858

Mobile - 07973 235525

Email - mike@mrp1972.com

I would like to thank James for his outstanding contribution to the County over the past eight years. There have been many changes in Dorset over the past eight years and it is fitting that James steps down after such a fantastic centenary year. I am sure that you will all make Mike welcome in his new role and give him all the support required over the coming months.

Yours sincerely

Gordon Weston

Regional Commissioner - South West England

At a special ceremony held at his home on 12th November, Ted Terry, a member of the Fellowship was presented with the Silver Acorn by the County Commissioner James Morton. Congratulations Ted.



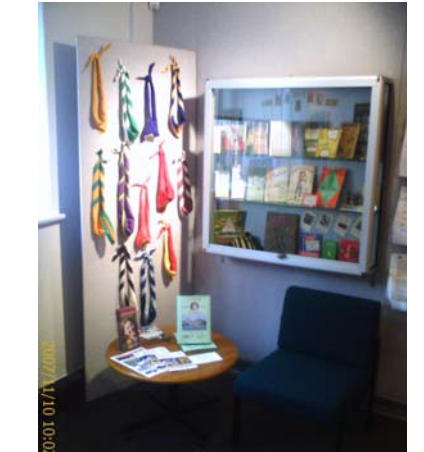
Nights Away Scheme Update

In September 2007 updates to the Nights Away Permit Scheme were announced following a review of how successfully the scheme had been implemented. Changes include the addition of a new category - Lightweight Expedition; the requirement for a first aid holder to be present; clarification on the renewal process; service teams and much more. For more information please contact the District Nights Away Advisers or visit the website at <http://www.scoutbase.org.uk/ps/nightsaway/naps.htm>



Open Day at the Red House Museum 10th November 2007

Christchurch Scouts descended on the Red House Museum for a special open day on 10th November. The day was aimed at show casing Scouting today to the general public. Jumpers Beavers, Burton Cubs and Bransgore Scouts kindly held their weekly meeting at the Museum in a specially erected marquee on the lawn (thanks to Jumpers). Over 100 people attended the event throughout the day and below you can see pictures of the various activities that took place.



Send your items for the April Newsletter to info@christchurchscouts.org.uk or by post to 20 Portfield Close, Christchurch. BH23 2AH by 14th March 2008

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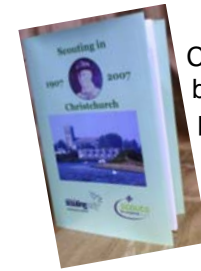


Information Centre
0845 300 1818
Christchurch Capers is produced by Christchurch and District Scout Council
Registered charity number 267706
Christchurch Scout Centre, Beauchamp Place, off Reid Street, Christchurch. BH23 2BS
info@christchurchscouts.org.uk



The History of Scouting in Christchurch

Copies of the limited edition publication of the District's history book are still available. In full colour, this book details the full history of Scouting in Christchurch from 1907 to the present day and includes pictures and information on Scouting in Christchurch never before seen. Priced at just £8 this hard backed book is a must have keep sake. For your copy send a cheque for £8 per book made payable to "Christchurch District Scout Council", together with your name, address and contact details to **History Book, 20 Portfield Close, Christchurch. BH23 2AH**



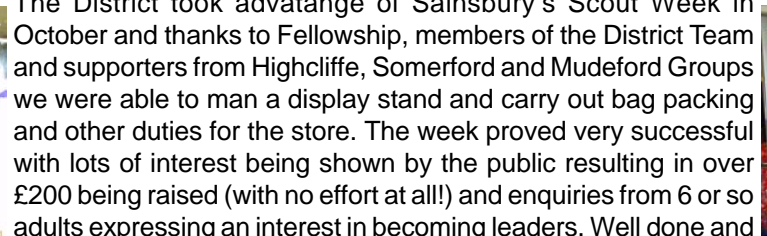
Gilwell Reunion 7th - 9th September

The weekend is an opportunity for all adult members who have gained their Wood Badge to come together for a weekend of fun at the home of Scouting in Gilwell Park, Chingford. Throughout the weekend you have the opportunity to take part in a wide range of activities, meet old friends, make new ones and share experiences with your fellow adults in Scouting. There great Reunion bases, workshops, activities and evening entertainment lined up throughout the weekend and you get a chance to speak with HQ staff directly. Last September a small contingent from Christchurch attended the event and had a great time. If you would like to join us for a weekend away from the kids, amongst good company and take advantage of some much needed rest and relaxation time then please get in touch with any member of the District Team.



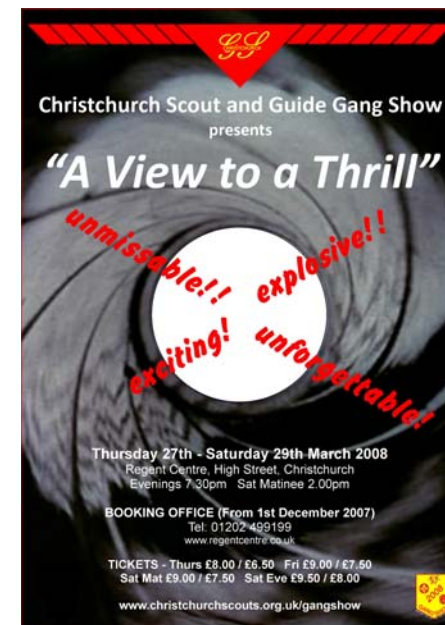
Sainsbury's Scout Week 3rd - 9th October

The District took advantage of Sainsbury's Scout Week in October and thanks to Fellowship, members of the District Team and supporters from Highcliffe, Somerford and Mudeford Groups we were able to man a display stand and carry out bag packing and other duties for the store. The week proved very successful with lots of interest being shown by the public resulting in over £200 being raised (with no effort at all!) and enquiries from 6 or so adults expressing an interest in becoming leaders. Well done and thanks to all who helped out.



Gang Show - "A View to a Thrill" 27th - 29th March 2008

Another exciting show for all the family brought to you by Christchurch Scouts and Guides. Having been away for a couple of years we are back in full strength with a cocktail of humour, fun, song and dance! The return of the show brings new adventures such as chocolatiers and an opening number that will leave you "shaken, not stirred!" How could you possibly miss setting your "sights" on this "explosive mission?"



Special offer - Book directly with the Gang Show advanced box office before 18th January and secure one free adult ticket for every ten child tickets purchased for any performance! Download a special order form from the gangshow website at www.christchurchscouts.org.uk/gangshow