

APRIL 2009

The Spur

The Newsletter of Torbay Scouts Est. 1953
(Registered Charity No: 1027059) www.torbay-scouts.com

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FROM THE BOROUGH COMMISSIONER

Firstly I would like to express my thanks to Brian Williamson for all he has done on the campsite and wish him well in all he has planned for the future. He has made a great many changes there and without his dedication some would not have been done in our time. He leaves a wonderful legacy with the centenary building, climbing tower and grass sledging just some of the things he has contributed to. Thank you Brian.

Secondly it is with sadness I say thank you to Christine Price for everything you have done in the Scout Shop including getting it online recently. Without some of your ideas none of it would have been possible. Please accept our heartfelt thanks.

St Georges Day Parade: this will take place at Upton Vale Church on 26th April, assembling in the Library car park at 2pm, parade at 2.35 to proceed past the Library taking the salute near the bus stop and round to the entrance in St Marychurch Rd for the service to start at 3pm. It should last no more than an hour and there will be refreshment afterwards.

Just to let you all know that some of your training awards are finally starting to filter through after what seems to be an eternity since you have completed them. There has been a log jam which is now starting to clear so be ready for them to arrive. *Tony*

TICK PREVENTION WEEK

The season for walking on Dartmoor and other wild areas is now upon us, so it is timely that I received an Email from *Dave Parnell* passing on a message from BADA-UK about sheep ticks. If you have been attacked by these (and I have!) you will know that at

the least they are uncomfortable and at the worst fatal. Here is the text of the message:

Tick Prevention week (6th-12th April 2009) is organised by BADA-UK (Borreliosis & Associated Diseases Awareness UK. www.bada-uk.org, email@bada-uk.org) It is an annual campaign timed to coincide with the spring holidays when the weather gets warmer and people are out and about more. Ticks are blood-sucking parasites which can carry a range of diseases, including Borreliosis (Lyme Disease).

TICKS ARE NOT CONFIND TO WILD, RURAL PLACES. Eight year old Helena was bitten while on a school camping trip in Cobham, Surrey. When she developed an expanding red rash, nobody knew that it was a sign that she had Lyme disease.

Five year old Emily was bitten in her back garden in Guildford, Surrey. Her mum thought her rash was a carpet burn but it was the first warning sign that she had Lyme disease.

These cases are not surprising. In the Mayor of London's Draft report, "London Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (August 2008)", it was highlighted that, "the Royal Parks, Country Parks and the Green Belt are considered areas where contact with ticks is likely".

With cases of Borreliosis trebling in England and Wales since 2001, and increasing in Scotland by a factor of eight, it's important that we take preventative measures against ticks.

THE GOOD NEWS: Simple actions can deter ticks from biting us. (Never walk on Dartmoor in shorts, always long trousers tucked into your socks. Avoid walking through areas of tall bracken; sheep ticks like to wait on the fronds for passing animals – *Editor*). If infection should occur, early diagnosis and treatment can help prevent any lasting effects.

TICK AWARENESS: This year, Tick Prevention Week focuses on children and making sure that they are tick aware too. *Wendy Fox*, Chair of BADA-UK says: "Ticks are a part of nature and there is no need to panic about them. However, we should be aware of where they are likely to be, how to prevent them from biting us, and what to do if we are bitten, because they can sometimes make us sick. Teaching children about ticks does not need to be scary. It's no different to making sure they put on a seat belt in the car or that they don't take sweets from strangers. It is very important that a child knows to come and tell an adult if they have been bitten".

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT - www.tickpreventionweek.org

Tick Prevention Week is endorsed by the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH). Andrew Griffiths, Acting Director of Policy, CIEH says, "The CIEH takes the issue of tick-borne disease in the United Kingdom very seriously. We therefore welcome the BADA-UK initiative to raise awareness of these issues and are delighted to endorse 'Tick Prevention Week' as a valuable awareness campaign".

BEAVER SCOUT NEWS

Another of the popular Night Hikes is arranged for Friday May 8th, meeting at Clennon Valley car park at 6.15pm. Beaver leaders are asked to let Julie Shepherd know of numbers by 1st of May on 01803 555519. A flyer is attached to this Spur.

Saturday July 11th is to be Beavers' 999 Day. Details later, but please put the date in your diary.

CUB SCOUT NEWS

The Borough Cub Scout swimming gala will be held on Saturday June 6th. Please keep the weekend of June 19th to 21st free for the Borough Cub Scout camp. Details of both events later.

WATER ACTIVITIES

Tom Pattichis, the Amateur Rowing Association South West Coaching & Development Team Leader has agreed to be an External Assessor for Pulling & Rowing for us in Devon. Applicants need to have read Fact Sheets FS 120660 - Pulling & FS 120661 - Rowing & Sculling before sending their Activity Permit Application Form together with Assessment Checklist AC 120929 - Pulling & AC 120930 - Rowing & Sculling **with a Self Addressed Envelope** to;- Tom Pattichis, Room Lower East 18, Quadrangle, Seale-Hayne Campus, University of Plymouth, Newton Abbot, TQ12 6NQ. Tel: 01626 333020 or 07879 070873, Email: tom.pattichis@ara-rowing.org.

An article regarding Personal Activity Permits has been issued from Gilwell and is attached to this 'Spur'.

I would like to remind all groups that any craft they are intending to use this summer need to be inspected for seaworthiness. Please contact me regarding this. *Terry Porter*, Water Activities Advisor.

TRAINING

Here are the dates for training sessions for 2009, please contact *Tracey Samways*, comet.samways@blueyonder.co.uk the local training manager for further details. An application form for all modules is attached to this 'Spur'.

Tue 21st April - Module 14 & 15 – Plymouth

Tue 19th May - Module 19 – Plymouth

Tue 9th June - Module 8 - Exeter

Sat 20th June - Module 10 - Plymouth

Thurs 10th Sept Module 16 - part one - Date and location TBA

Tue 15th Sept - Module 18 - Exeter

Fri 25th to Sun 27th September - Module 16 - pt 2 - Watcombe Campsite.

Tue 29th Sept - Module 5 - Plymouth

Tue 10th Nov - Module 8 and 9 - Plymouth

Tue 17th Nov - Module 14 - Exeter

Sat 21st Nov - Module 10 - Plymouth

All Plymouth dates are held at Blindman's Wood 7pm start (except for the Saturdays which are 9.30 - 4)

All Exeter dates are held at Little Silver 7pm start. Torbay dates are 7pm start.

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

The next Fellowship meeting will be Wednesday 8th April, 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start, at Watcombe Campsite. Please come along to the meeting with a view to joining us.

A lot of help will be needed over the Spring Bank Holiday weekend for the Devon Mini Jamboree. If you can help you should contact John Hampton.

FIRST AID TRAINING

Dave Parnell writes: For personal reasons I find it necessary to step down as Borough First Aid Trainer/Advisor, with immediate effect. I have enjoyed the many years I have been doing training, but the time has come for me to hand the job over to someone else.

The new Trainer/Advisor is *John Hampton (Geordy)* who is also the new chairman of Torbay Scout Fellowship. Many of you know him as he has years of experience as a first aid trainer and assessor and he has been involved with first aid training in the Borough for many years. I wish him well in his new job. John can be contacted at: john@tq10.wanadoo.co.uk.

I will still be organising the Torbay Cub Scout First aid Competition in conjunction with *Geordy*. This will be held at Watcombe Campsite on 4th July 2009. Full details will be in a later Spur.

SCOUT SHOP NEWS

The Scout Shop will be closed on the 9th and 16th of April during the school holidays.

FUND RAISING

The Pedal Car Grand Prix is back after a break of several years. It will be held on Torre Abbey meadows on Sunday 19th of July. *Steve Holdup* of Babbacombe and St Marychurch Rotaryis contacted the Spur offering Scout Groups the chance of competing in this event. Also, if any group wants to put up a stall in the accompanying Fete, space is available. He is also looking for overnight security staff for the night before the event. If you are interested contact Steve on 01803 327154.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 4th April – 3rd Torbay Barn Dance

Wednesday 8th April – Scout Fellowship Meeting 7pm, Watcombe Campsite

Tue 21st April - Training Module 14 & 15 - Plymouth

26TH April – St George’s Day Parade.

Friday 8th May – Beavers’ Night Hike

Tue 19th May - Training Module 19 - Plymouth

22nd to 25th May 2009 – Devon mini Jamboree

Sat 6th June – Borough Cub Scout swimming gala

Tue 9th June - Training Module 8 - Exeter

Fri 19th to Sun 21st June – Borough Cub Scout Camp

Sat 20th June - Training Module 10 - Plymouth

4th July – Cub Scout First Aid Competition

July 11th – Beavers’ 999 day

Thurs 10th Sept Training Module 16 – pt 1 - Date and location TBA

Tue 15th Sept - Training Module 18 - Exeter

Fri 25th - Sun 27th Sept - Module 16 – pt 2 - Watcombe Campsite.

Tue 29th Sept - Training Module 5 - Plymouth

Tue 10th Nov - Training Module 8 & 9 - Plymouth

Tue 17th Nov - Training Module 14 - Exeter

Sat 21st Nov - Training Module 10 - Plymouth

3rd TORBAY (SHIPHAY) NEWS

You are invited to a Barn Dance on Saturday the 4th of April, 7.30pm at St. John's Hall, Cadewell Lane, Shiphay. Come along and dance to the music of the Random Mackerel Band. Tickets are £5 (including supper) and £3 for children. Tickets from Cleo Allen on 01803 212048 or from any section leader. Come and join us and have a good time. *John Todd.*

11TH TORBAY (BARTON) NEWS



Are they Cubs or Monkeys? On Saturday 28th February 2009, 16 Cub Scouts from the 11th (Barton) Sea Scouts Cub pack (and one visiting Cub Scout) set off from their HQ at Barton Downs on route to Chapel Woods in Torquay for a morning of Climbing and Abseiling.

They arrived at the woods by mini bus and had a fun filled day of playing games in the woods; climbing; abseiling and cooking hot dogs for their lunch on Trangias. They also took time to clear an area in the Woodland from litter and rubbish that you would not naturally find in the Woods. The pack are currently working towards their Global Conservation Badge and their Outdoor Challenge.

All of the leaders and young people involved would like to say a very big "THANK YOU" to John Seymour and his team from 17th Torbay for their time, equipment, help and most importantly their wonderful patience. *Tracey Samways* Cub Scout Leader, 11th Torbay (Barton) Sea Scout Group.

supersales outdoors



**camping walking
clothing & equipment**

**90 High St Totnes
01803 862737**

Footnote from the Editor

Closing date for contributions to the **May 2009** issue of
The Spur is **Saturday 25th April 2009**

Contributions can be e-mailed **in Word please** to:

dhjohnson@blueyonder.co.uk or can be posted to

David Johnson, 11, Boundary Road Chelston, Torquay. TQ2 6LR
or by telephone (evenings 8 to 9.30) on 01803 605417