



# 1<sup>st</sup> Swindon Village Scouts St Lawrence



No. 114

1SV Groundsheet  
January 2015



## Winter Camp – Gilwell Park, Epping Forest

Yes – once again, we really did go camping in tents, in January ! Three Scouts and four Explorers together with Colette (from Minchinhampton), Shane, Ashley, Mike & Sos enjoyed an extremely windy and remarkably mild Friday night and a much, much colder Saturday night with around 3,500 other Scouts and Explorers at this year's Gilwell Winter Camp. What made this camp different from any other that we've done before is that most of the Scouts and Explorers we took were from all over Gloucestershire and had never met up before we set off together. And what made it so enjoyable was how well they all got on over the weekend – working together and enjoying each others company. They made our job as leaders very easy and were a credit to all their Scout groups and Explorer Units.

We arrived at Gilwell at 9:15pm on Friday and soon had our camp pitched (by midnight) ! After a cracking cooked breakfast on Saturday – the youngsters headed off around Gilwell to tackle some of the adventurous activities on offer. Some of the more unusual activities included: mini tank driving, Segways, axe throwing, Digger Driving, Argocats, Quad Bikes and a 4x4 off-road adventure. Other activities included an Outdoor Laser Quest, loads of climbing and abseiling towers/walls, two Simulator rides, Zorbing, Robot Wars, Dodgems, Waltzers, Laser Clay Shooting, a 3G swing and old favourites including Prussiking, Shooting and Archery. There were also craft areas, computer games, skittles, Gilwell Radio and many other more relaxing activities on offer as well as the snack bar and Gilwell Scout Shop. At night there were Wide Games and Camp Fires outside or a Disco, and Cinema inside where you could escape the mud for a while. On Sunday morning after another cooked breakfast, the Scouts all made a packed lunch & then packed up their tents before another 3 hours of activities. Meanwhile in between several cups of tea - the leaders managed to load all the kit into the trailer & we were one of the first groups to leave the site by 1:30pm – escaping the traffic chaos that no-doubt followed ! All in all – a cracking weekend – with a terrific bunch of Scouts and Explorers.

## County Monopoly Run

This fun challenge was held in Cirencester one Saturday in January for mixed Scout and Explorer Scout teams. We took four Scouts from Swindon Village together with one from Prestbury & three from Warden Hill to represent Cheltenham District. The day started with a briefing at 1<sup>st</sup> Cirencester Scout HQ, giving the teams a chance to meet up and plan their strategy for the day. They then had to visit 21 places around Cirencester and complete a challenge or take a photo to prove they had been there. There were also 4 leaders walking around the town who were the “Go”, “Chance”, “Community Chest” and “Go to Jail” squares on the Monopoly board – but until the teams challenged the leader – they didn't know what they were in for ! The weather was very cold & sunny with a dusting of snow on the ground which made for a lovely day and kept everyone moving in order to stay warm. Once back at the

finish, we all had copious amounts of Hot Chocolate & Coffee together with Hot Dogs & Burgers. Another very enjoyable day out and one which the County team will look to run again next year – but in a different Gloucestershire town !



## Compass: the new Scout membership system

Just a quick thank you to everyone who has spent time filling in & returning the 'Young Person Information forms'. This is a really important exercise that we need to have completed by 12<sup>th</sup> February. If you have any questions or need any help, please don't hesitate to get in touch with Sos

## Leader Contact Details

You can contact Sos & Rachel by E-mail: [svscouts@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:svscouts@blueyonder.co.uk) and our website is: <http://www.1stswindonvillagescouts.btck.co.uk/>

## Dates for Your Diary

Sun 1 <sup>st</sup> Feb	District Scout Cooking competition
7 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Cotswold Marathon
Sun 22 <sup>nd</sup> Feb	County Scout Cooking competition
Sat 21 <sup>st</sup> March	Jumble Sale at 11am: Swindon Village Hall
12 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup> June	“Strategy” camp at Cirencester Park
3 <sup>rd</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup> July	Haarlem Jamborette Practice Camp
25 <sup>th</sup> July – 5 <sup>th</sup> Aug	The Haarlem Jamborette – Netherlands

**Sos**