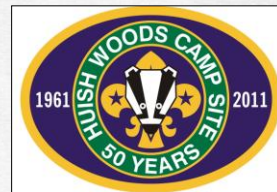


TAUNTON DEANE SCOUT DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

2011



PETER BOURNER – PRESIDENT

DOES TAUNTON SCOUTING HAVE IT ALL?

With assets at TANGIER, HUISH WOODS and GROUP HQ's we certainly have the bricks and mortar!

Our activities, including the camping and opportunities at Huish Woods, the Gang Show, Canoeing and a wide range of indoor and outdoor events strengthen the argument.

But I believe our greatest strength lies with the regular meetings of all Sections and the support leaders have available at Group, District & County level, without this, the weekly (Daily!) input from all our leaders and helpers would not reach its potential.

YES – TAUNTON SCOUTING HAS IT ALL!

THANKS TO YOU ALL

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – No. 1

I am delighted to report that we have, since June 2011, had a new Chairperson (John Lewis) who is very ably leading the Executive...I wish him well in this role.

Yet again, one of my roles before I stepped down (I am still on the committee) was to oversee the erection of the new toilet block on the Beacon field and I am sure those of you who have camped there will have found it not only an asset but also a very pleasing design. Many thanks to the staff and volunteers at Huish Woods who facilitated this project and for the team of people who were employed to do the building work

As usual there are many members of the Movement who work quietly in the background who do not necessarily get thanks for the work they do so I would like to add my thanks to them for all that they do to make this a successful Scout District. I would also need to add thanks to those who lead from the front as well...our DC.....the training team.....the Scout Shop staff and MANY more...a huge thank you to you all.

As I step down from being Chairman I would like to wish Scouting in general the strength to continue its forward thinking mode and to commend the work that is being done for the youngsters in the town and the immediate area....from little acorns mighty oak trees grow (Baden Powell)

CHARLIE BACK

The District AGM in 2011 coincided with Charlie's 76th birthday and so a birthday cake was appropriate to wish him a Happy Birthday but also to thank him for the 10 years he had led the District as Chairman. In that time Charlie saw many changes several that he had been involved with. The newer buildings at Huish Woods are a testament to the time he has given so generously to Taunton Deane Scouting. He is also a member of Tangier Management Committee giving his professional view on the building is much appreciated.



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - No 2

Even though I'd been on the Executive for a number of years, taking over as Chairman saw me for a while in Watership Down mode – startled rabbit staring into oncoming headlights. The Executive has a wide remit and a heavy weight of responsibility, not all immediately apparent.



I haven't come through the Beaver – Cub – Scout route. I was a member of another uniformed organisation from the age of eight, coming up through to the equivalent of ADC and collecting a Queen's Badge on the way. My daughter and son were both Scouts at Central, which is where I was 'persuaded' to be a Parent Rep. The rest is history but I know firsthand how dedicated Leaders and Helpers have to be. This might be preaching to the converted but there is a huge 'Thank You' to be said to all who have chosen Scouting as their 'hobby'.

It's also been a challenge taking over at the same time as our new District Commissioner took up his post. Perhaps the combination of two new heads has raised some eyebrows, but together John and I hope to take the Movement in Taunton Deane District forward, never forgetting the reason we're all in it - Young People.

I must put on record my thanks, and those of the Executive, to Charlie for the way he has steered us for many years and taken us through some major changes. He has set high standards and is not an easy act to follow. I'm very pleased he's stepped down only from the Chair and we will continue to benefit from his experience and wisdom as a member of the executive.

The effects of the recession have not past Scouting by and, like Groups; the Executive has to look closely at its finances. The major works at Huish Woods, necessary to ensure it continues as our outdoor centre and flagship advertisement, have taken up much of what has been available to us in capital funding. We are not by any means awash with money. Our income streams are at present very limited and I see it as imperative that we keep revenue on an even keel to deliver the training programmes and Section activities that we are all justly proud of.

The Executive is a team encompassing many talents. I hope between us we can exploit them all over the next few years.

JOHN LEWIS

TREASURER'S REPORT 2011

It has been a busy year for Taunton District Scouts. Our main expenditure this year was at Huish Woods – building a fantastic new toilet block on the Beacon Field. Although it is a big expense, it is important to invest in the site and to make sure it can be enjoyed by all for many years to come.



Much needed income was again provided by both Tangier and Huish Woods shops.

The increase in expenditure has seen most of our reserve funds depleted, so it is vitally important that we fundraise in order to secure the future of the District.

Thanks to all those who manage our accounts for your help and support

CLARE PRICE – DISTRICT TREASURER

TAUNTON DEANE DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

PRESIDENT PETER BOURNER

VICE PRESIDENTS
CHARLIE BACK
CYRIL BOND
DOROTHY BOND J.P.
SHEILA BOURNER
ARTHUR COLES
BABS COLLINS
PAT HITCHCOCK
JOHN PALMER
JACK SCOTT
DAVID TOMS

COMMITTEES

DISTRICT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

District Chairman (Jan – June)	Charlie Back	01823 432151
District Chairman (July onwards)	John Lewis	01823 283892
Minutes Secretary	Ian Marks	01823 254420
District Treasurer	Mrs. Clare Price	01823 270157

DISTRICT APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE.

Chairman	Patrick Hitchcock	01823 282408
Vice Chairman	Mrs. Sue Wilmott	01823 270402
Secretary	Mrs. Abbie Cook	01823 432979

SCOUT ACTIVE SUPPORT - TANGIER

Manager	Rob Warburton	01823 432518
Secretary	Mrs. Yvonne Back	01823 432151
Treasurer	Mrs. Kath Haste	01823 276306

SCOUT ACTIVE SUPPORT – HUISH WOODS

Manager	Steve Mitchell	01823 353349
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DISTRICT EXPLORER EXECUTIVE

Chairman	VACANT	
Secretary	VACANT	
Treasurer	Ray Spurgeon	01984 624601

GANG SHOW

Producer/Director	Dave Mullen	01823 276886
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SERVICE AWARDS DURING 2011

(ROLE IS AS AT THE DATE OF THE AWARD)



5 YEAR - CHIEF SCOUTS LONG SERVICE AWARD

	<u>DATE OF AWARD</u>	<u>ROLE</u>
PETER VENN	24-Mar-2011	CSL WIVELISCOMBE
TIM GAINES	28-Nov-2011	ASL WIVELISCOMBE
ROBIN GREEN	27-May-2011	ASL WEST TAUNTON
ANDY BATEMAN	27-May-2011	ASL WELLINGTON
ANDREW MOUNTSTEPHENS	27-Jul-2011	CSL TRULL
ADRIAN GRINTER	27-Jul-2011	SHOOTING INSTRUCTOR
JOHN ROYNON	27-Jul-2011	SECRETARY - HENLADE
HAZEL ALTRIA	21-Sep-2011	AGSL WELLINGTON
NEIL PALMER	21-Sep-2011	PACK ASSISTANT
PHILIP EDWARDS	28-Nov-2011	CHAIRMAN STAPLEGROVE
PHIL BOWER	28-Nov-2011	EX DISTRICT COMMISSIONER
JANET BUTTERS	28-Nov-2011	PACK ASSISTANT TPS

10 YEAR - CHIEF SCOUTS LONG SERVICE AWARD

PETER UNDERWOOD	27-Jul-2011	ACSL WILTON
DUNCAN BIDDULPH	24-Mar-2011	VARIOUS ROLES

15 YEAR - CHIEF SCOUTS LONG SERVICE AWARD

STEVE PIKE	27-May-2011	SL TRINITY
JAMES KNIGHT	27-May-2011	CSL WEST HATCH
SUZANNE MCDONOUGH	24-Mar-2011	SECRETARY TRULL
MARGARET PITMAN	24-Mar-2011	TREASURER WEST HATCH
BARBARA WILLIAMS	20-Jan-2011	CSL HENLADE
NIC THOMPSON	27-Jul-2011	BSL CENTRAL
PAM GAINES	27-Jul-2011	GSL WIVELISCOMBE & DESC
JOHN GALLIMORE	28-Nov-2011	EXPLORER SCOUT LEADERS
STEVE WALKER	28-Nov-2011	GSL TRULL
ED GAINES	22-Mar-2011	SL WIVELISCOMBE

20 YEAR - CHIEF SCOUTS LONG SERVICE AWARD

GLENYS LEE	27-Jul-2011	GANG SHOW
JOHN SAMPSON	21-Sep-2011	SAS HUISH WOODS
JACQUI HOOLEY	21-Sep-2011	SECRETARY WEST TAUNTON
CHRIS COX	28-Nov-2011	GSL ROCKWELL GREEN
CHRIS LEE	22-Mar-2011	GANG SHOW
PETE WHITEFIELD	22-Mar-2011	SL CENTRAL

25 YEAR - CHIEF SCOUTS LONG SERVICE AWARD

MARTIN ALLEN	27-Jul-2011	PACK ASSISTANT STAPLEGROVE
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30 YEAR - CHIEF SCOUTS LONG SERVICE AWARD

ADRIAN BLACKMORE	21-Jan-2011	CLIMBING INSTRUCTOR
ADRIAN PRIOR-SANKEY	21-Jan-2011	CHAPLAIN & SAS
RICHARD COOK	24-Mar-2011	ASL BISHOPS LYDEARD
ALAN WRIGHT	20-Jan-2011	SAS HUISH WOODS
JANET BERRY	28-Nov-2011	CSL BISHOPS LYDEARD

50 YEAR - CHIEF SCOUTS LONG SERVICE AWARD

GEOFF PINNEY	31-Oct-2011	GROUP MANAGER CENTRAL
ROB WARBURTON	28-Nov-2011	SAS MANAGER TANGIER
MARIAN SCOTT	22-Mar-2011	DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

SPECIAL AWARDS

(Role is as at the date of the Award)

CHIEF SCOUT'S COMMENDATION AWARDED FEBRUARY 18th 2011

MARTIN SHATTOCK	'ABSL WILTON
GAIL DOWNTON	BSL WEST HATCH
SEAN ELLETT	CSL CENTRAL
JENNY HUTT	APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE
STEVE PIKE	SL TRINITY
MICHAEL ROBINSON	SL BISHOPS LYDEARD
THELMA TOLLER	SAS HUISH WOODS



MARTIN SHATTOCK



GAIL DOWNTON



SEAN ELLETT



JENNY HUTT



STEVE PIKE



MICHAEL ROBINSON



THELMA TOLLER

AWARD FOR MERIT

AWARDED FEBRUARY 18th 2011

PETE WHITEFIELD SL CENTRAL



BAR TO AWARD FOR MERIT

AWARDED SEPTEMBER 1st 2011

MICK SCREECH ACSL WEST TAUNTON



BEASON NEWSPIX TROPHY

WINNER LIZ REYNOLDS SAS

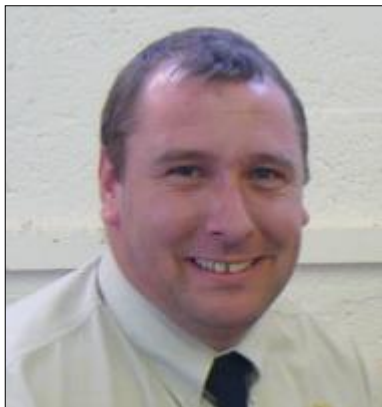
WORKING WITH WEST MONKTON BEAVERS

Criteria was: -

“Any Scout Group or Section in Taunton District can submit a montage/collage of photograph/s showing ACTION AT CAMP (taken during 2011). Most of you will probably opt for the 50th Anniversary Camp as your choice. The finished montage/collage should be no larger than A1 size.”



TAUNTON DEANE DISTRICT COMMISSIONER



At the District AGM in June 2011 it was announced that I was to be the new DC. This came as a surprise to many as not everyone had met me before though the Beaver Section certainly had as I had spent nearly 5 years as District Beaver Scout Leader.

As this has been my first year as DC for the Taunton Deane Scout District this is the first time I have written the report but here we go!

- Before I took on the role we had a visit from Bear Grylls, Chief Scout, at Huish Woods. This went very well and the number of young people that were able to meet him was great. He stayed for a while and spoke to as many people as he could. He then flew off again in his helicopter to make further visits in the South West.
- We had a few Young People attend the 22nd World Scout Jamboree in Sweden.
- Huish Woods enjoyed its 50th Anniversary year during 2011. The 50th Party weekend in September went very well and a good number of Groups attended the event. This was my 1st event as DC and I enjoyed it very much. It was great to see so many old and new Scouters at this weekend. There was a lot going on from Bouncy Castle to Birds of Prey. Thanks to everyone who helped set this event up and to all those that attended.
- The District is still growing and going well. This is down to all the leaders, helpers and everyone who helps or attends any Scout Group or works within the District.

I would like to thank everyone who has helped me this past year and let's hope for a great year in the Taunton Deane District.

**Thank you
John Troake
DC**

PETER BOURNER – ARCHIVES

Weekly meetings with 2 'young' ladies from SAS (Scout Active Support) keeps our records up to date – THANKS.

We hope to concentrate on Group memorabilia in the future and will need Group/Section support to name and date the existing collection and add current and future items – your help and co-operation would be appreciated.

CONGRATULATIONS

TO ALL THE YOUNG PEOPLE
WHO HAVE GAINED AWARDS DURING THE YEAR

CHIEF SCOUT'S BRONZE AWARD



CHIEF SCOUT'S SILVER AWARD



CHIEF SCOUT'S GOLD AWARD



CHIEF SCOUT'S DIAMOND AWARD



CHIEF SCOUT'S PLATINUM AWARD



QUEEN'S SCOUT



BEAVER DISTRICT ANNUAL REPORT to 31st December 2011



Taunton District Beavers issued a Beaver 25 year celebration Challenge only to find a short while afterwards that the County was also issuing a similar challenge. The District Challenge was subsequently halted in favour of participation in the County Challenge.

We looked into the idea of a District outing, but with so much going on during 2011 decided this would not be a good time to run this event. Leaders expressed comments that they were already finding it difficult to support the District and County events on offer.

The Taunton District Beavers visited the Wellesley Cinema, Wellington for the Pantomime, Jack and the Beanstalk. This was the first event of the year held on 29th January with 109 Beavers and Leaders from 8 Colonies represented.

March was once again our annual District Beaver Party, with a very happy and lively group of Beavers dancing, limbo dancing and playing games, under the direction of Trevor Rice. Wellington Junior School was the venue for this event.

The camp/fun day, was, as usual, held at Huish Woods, this year we were particularly celebrating our 25 years of Scouting in the United Kingdom. The challenge for each Colony was to make a collage on the theme of "fun and friendship", these interesting masterpieces were then displayed in the Govett Hall, by kind permission of the Huish Wood camp staff. A record number of 208 Beavers attended this event either camping overnight or attending for the fun day. In the end we had to order an extra celebration cake. The Beacon on Beacon field was lit to celebrate this special birthday prior to the camp fire on the Saturday evening. Earlier in the day the Beavers had participated in some very wet, messy and varied games and activities. They were sooooo much fun!



The Handicraft competition took place at Tangier in November. There were two classes, a collage and making a sock puppets---the judges had a very difficult task in selecting the winning entries! 1st West Hatch, 2nd Wellington, 3rd Wilton, 4th West Monkton closely followed by Trinity, Staplegrove, West and Wiveliscombe.

No St George's Day parade this year, hopefully we will have a 100% turnout for the Parade in 2012!

Thank you yet again to Wendy Camp and John Troake---although John did disappear in June to take on his role as District Commissioner, we hope to lure John back to help with the 2012 Camp, so as he keep his hand in" on the practical side! It helps so much in having a team with running and organising events.

The commitment and dedication of the Leaders is reflected in the number of Beavers that attend the weekly meetings and the waiting lists that continue to grow. My thanks to all Leaders who so loyally support events and work with such dedication to give youngsters a full and fun programme each week – well done to you all!

JACQUI HOPKINS, ADC BEAVERS

CUB SCOUT REPORT for 2012 AGM

2011 EVENTS

DISTRICT CAMP ran on a theme of the 1960's, again the weather treated us well and the Cubs spent a weekend full of fun bases.

Many Packs joined in with the **50TH ANNIVERSARY CAMP** at Huish Woods in September.

In October Sean Ellett was appointed as District Cub Scout Leader and I am grateful to all the help he has given me already and to the Cub Section.

November 11th **DISTRICT QUIZ** this was kindly run by Martin Allen due to Clive being out of action. RESULTS 1st Place; Bishops Lydeard - 3 Musketeers, 2nd Place; Henlade – Bongos

November 19th **DISTRICT SWIMMING GALA** this was ran by Sean Ellett due to Clive still being out of action. Seven Packs had a very enjoyable afternoon with some very close races. A brilliant atmosphere! 1st – Wilton, 2nd – TPS & 3rd – Trinity

The start of 2012 saw a new Cub Pack being started at Stoke St Gregory. I have visited them twice on the second occasion it was to invest the 14 Cubs they have. They are starting to do a full programme now and are using local venues such as the Willow Centre.

2012 EVENTS

The Cub's have seven District Events in their calendar.

1. On the 25th February we held the Handicraft Competition. It was very well supported by 8 Packs and the entries were good and showed how many skills our Cubs have.
2. On 23rd March we held the Chess & Draughts - this as previous years was not very well attended only West Taunton, Trinity and West Monkton took part.

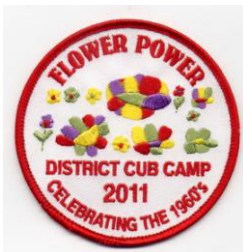
Still to come -

3. 28th April Super Pack Competition held at Huish Woods.
4. 20th May Six A Side Football at Staplegrove football ground.
5. 13th June Athletics Badge will be held at Bishop Fox's School. This is a new event so hope we get plenty of support. The school has asked for a donation so there will be a charge per Pack. Thanks to Steve Summerill GSL at Wilton for booking the School.
6. 22nd 23rd 24th June - District Camp to be held at Huish Woods. The theme this year will be the Olympics. We have asked if the Explorer YLs might run the base's and certainly they will be helping.
7. 17th November Swimming Gala awaiting confirmation of date.

A number of Packs are very full and some have started second Packs we can only conclude this is due to the excellent programmes put on by our Leaders.

I would like to say a very big thank you to all the Leaders, Pack Assistants and also to Parents that help out with the Packs. I am hoping to get to visit more Packs soon now I am back on my feet. Thank you to all for helping me out by running events whilst I was unable to do them.

Clive Welch ADC Cubs



2011 CUB CAMP BADGE
&
WEST MONKTON THE
INDIAN HEAD WINNERS



TAUNTON DISTRICT SCOUTS

During the past year several changes have taken place within the District. I was appointed as DDC in the November, following John Troake's appointment as DC, and Graham was appointed ADC Scouts. Looking back I would say that it was one of the more successful years for the Scout Section, it has been challenging some of the time, with a change of DC twice! , and with my County role, but it has also been enjoyable and "fun". The highlight for me was "Bears" visit to Huish Woods over the weekend of the practice Jamboree, and the 50th Anniversary camp at Huish Woods in the September. Both will stay in my memory for years to come.

A variety of District events has given everyone the opportunity to take part in a number of activities, and has resulted in some excellent competitions. These activities are provided in addition to the Scouting offered by the individual Troop nights, Group activities, and County events.

The current number of Troops in the District is 14 providing Scouting to some 307 young people. The Section numbers fell from last year, but hopefully we will grow next year! We still have problem finding leaders, and helpers.

The District Scout Leader's Council met a couple times through the year with varying success. I would like to thank everyone for their support at these meetings, sometime with very little notes. It had been our intention to visit individual Troops in the District on a regular basis. Unfortunately family, personal, work, and other Scouting commitment has delayed our plans somewhat.

So, what has the Scout Section been up to during the last year within the District? Well looking back the diary run like this:-

JANUARY

- Due to the extreme weather in December 2010, the **ORIENTEERING** competition had to be postponed. This time the day was lovely and sunny if not a little cold. The event was held at Lydeard hill on the Quantocks.
- The **TEN PIN BOWLING** competition saw 9 Troops taking part in this popular event, and we had teams filling every lane of the Hollywood Bowl on a Sunday morning. It was very successful, and was won by Wiveliscombe, with bumpers, and West Taunton 2nd, and Wilton came 1ST, and West Hatch 2nd with no bumpers

FEBRUARY

- Wellington won, the **READY STEADY COOK COMPETITION (2010)** held at Wellington Scouts HQ. They went onto the County Competition.
- As always, our own **District 5-A-SIDE FOOTBALL** tournament was well supported by 6 Troops, a total of 8 teams, and saw some brilliant games. Wellington were the winners after an exciting final which went to extra time, and penalties, runners up were West Taunton.

MARCH

- **COUNTY MOUNTAIN BIKE CHALLENGE** at Frome was well represented by Taunton District, a great day out for our Scouts



MAY

- **PRACTICE JAMBOREE & “BEAR IN THE WEST VISIT “**– Five Troops (10 Patrols) took part in the camp some of who would be going to the County Jamboree later in the month. The highlight of the weekend was a flying visit from the Chief Scout Bear Grylls, which was combined with a County Fun day.
- **COUNTY JAMBOREE** – held at Merryfield airfield, at Ilton. In the District competition Wilton came 1st, and 4th overall, and the Trophies for the best Gateway in the County went to Wiveliscombe.

JULY

- **WATER ACTIVITIES WEEKEND** – 7 Troops, and over 100 Scouts/leaders attended the event held at Winter Farm, Brompton Ralph. Activities included archery, shooting, fishing, raft building, mountain biking and canoeing. A popular event, and always well supported.
- The annual **RAFT RACE** was held with only two Troops. The Scouts and craft splashed their way from Firepool to the Town Bridge. This year Wilton paddled their way to victory.

AUGUST

- July and August is always a busy time for the individual Troops with mainly preparing for summer camp or expeditions.

SEPTEMBER

- **HUISH WOOD’S 50TH ANNIVERSARY CAMP** it was a fantastic weekend with so many activities, and events on offer. It was great to see so many Scouts on site, and to have the time just to catch up with other leaders. It was also memorable for me, as Shaun (CC) presented Andrew with his Bar to the Award for Merit.

OCTOBER

- The **ARCHERY FIELD SHOOT & RIFLE SHOOTING** competition was held at Huish Woods, with a number of Troops taking part. Wilton Troop won both competitions
- Wellington won, the **READY STEADY COOK COMPETITION** held at Wellington Scout HQ. Local celebrity Chef Roger Hemmings and Graham judged the competition. Points were given for menu, teamwork, theme, table settings, the food itself, & timings. The standard of cooking was very good Wellington 1st, Wilton 2nd.

NOVEMBER

- The **COUNTY SCOUT CHALLENGE** was held at Huish Woods with 40 Patrols taking part from all over the County. Wilton took 1st place overall.
- The Annual **SWIMMING GALA** was cancelled due to a double booking with the Cubs

DECEMBER

- The **ORIENTEERING** Competition was held at Castle Neroche, Staple Hill. Many thanks to John Peach, and his team, for organizing the event. 12 teams from 5 Troops took part, Wilton came 1st in a time of 25 minutes.

Finally my thanks go to all of our Leaders, and helper's in the District, who help to make the Scout Section so successful. Without them, and others who make these activities possible by giving their time and enthusiasm, and the hidden support of their families we would not be able to have such an enjoyable range of activities and fun! As with your sections, leaders come and go for various reasons. We would like to thank those Leaders that have left or joined the Scout Section. Also let's not forget the young people involved in the Scout Section, without whom, we would not be Scout Scouting, and to congratulate them all on their Awards and Badges gained.

TRICIA SEDGBEER,

A.D.C.Scouts. February 2000 - November 2011

COOKING COMPETITION



RAFT RACE



ARCHERY SHOOT



ACTIVITY CAMP

ORIENTEERING

BEAR'S VISIT





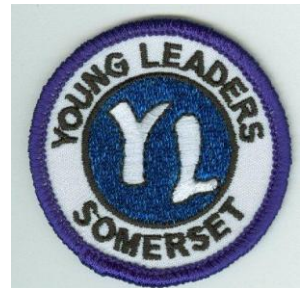
2011 saw several changes in the Explorer Provision in the District.

After Easter the Dragon Unit opened at Wilton, and immediately attracted several Explorers and numbers have continued to grow. In contrast the Wiveliscombe Unit has been temporarily closed due to lack of numbers.



The number of Young Leaders has increased and they have had a variety of training provided for them. A weekend at the campsite started the year providing all of the modules. Since then there have been a regular availability of Module A's and other monthly activities.

It was quickly decided that the Young Leader buckle for the completion of YL training and missions was not popular. A new badge was approved by the County Commissioner which could be worn until the young person receives their Adult Wood Beads or reaches their 21st birthday. This was piloted in Taunton Deane before being available across the County.



32 YLs completed their Module A and 7 YLs received their County YL badge.

Roy Crocker has been providing 1st Aid Training, and in the autumn ran a course for Explorers to satisfy the requirements for Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh.

At the District Explorer Awards Evening the following Homer awards were presented – Dragons – Sam Rooks, Phoenix – Ryan Atfield, Summit – Dan Hollingshead, Tangier – Reece Sanders, Wiveliscombe - Jessica (Jess) Morgan.

There have been an in creditable range of skills to practice and activities to do but none would have been possible without the leader team. The personnel of these teams have changed during the year. However, a big "Thank You" must go to all the leaders who have worked with the Units

PAM GAINES, DESC

The photograph opposite shows Richard Homer (centre) with Jess Morgan & Ryan Atfield holding their Homer trophy. In the back row is DESC Pam & DC JohnTroake.



TAUNTON DEANE DISTRICT SCOUT ACTIVE SUPPORT UNIT

This was our first complete year for operating as the Active Support Unit rather than as the Scout Fellowship and it has brought some changes which some members didn't like but which we have accommodated. The number of people on the Census has probably increased, but it is a bit difficult to compute as there are a number of Units and people are often members of more than one Section in the organisation.

Our reason for existence in Scouting is to provide support for activities where we have a skill that can be utilized. We often provide refreshments for meetings or courses, this AGM being an example. During the year there were a couple of big District events at the Huish Woods District camp site. The Chief Scout "dropped in" in May (by helicopter) for an hour, and was greeted by a vast hoard (collective noun?) of Scouts from our District and elsewhere. One of our jobs was "Security" to make sure that the visitor wasn't mobbed. In September it was the fiftieth anniversary of the setting up of this site at West Hatch, again with vast numbers. We thought that we might have been on car parking duty, but our main job was to have a constant supply of tea and coffee. The Service Crew at Huish Woods form an Active Service Unit which is augmented by people in the other Units. Some of our members are involved with "The Gang Show" which is staged at the Brewhouse Theatre at, Easter each year, but is staged on other occasions, sometimes as a concert. A lot of work has been done in sorting and cataloguing the extensive Scout Archive housed at the Tangier Headquarters by some of our members.

To bind the Units together there is a social-programme although it has not been as extensive this year as previously. We visited the new Longrun Meadow Nature Reserve and appreciated the work that had gone on there recently. Afterwards we enjoyed a meal in town. In a similar way we visited the newly re-opened County Museum at the Castle. We thought it was a big improvement over the old Victorian museum, but some people did find that it was difficult to read some of the plaques - a lighting problem. Again we finished off by visiting the cafeteria for lunch. We have also been able to keep old members of the movement in touch with events where they are not now so active.

Twice each year representatives from other Active Service Units in the county meet here at Tangier and we can swap ideas. We have had a joint lunch for several years in Langport (the geographical centre of the county) for "Founder's Day" in February. Some of us have joined with the Welsh Society to celebrate St. David's Day and we have helped at a sponging station for the Marathon and Half-Marathon organised by the Carnival Committee. Rotary organise a 50/50 Cycle Ride in June, We as an organisation have benefited from this event and we have been pleased to man a check-point. From this report you will see that there is a lot going on. If you would like to help, but your time is limited, perhaps this is a Section you could join to offer support?

ROB WARBURTON, SAS MANAGER TANGIER UNIT



THE LONGRUN MEADOW WALK

MARIAN'S REPORT

2011 was an interesting year for me. It started with Phil Bower as our DC but within a few months we were looking for a new DC as Phil found with work and family commitments he could no longer spare the time for Scouting at this level

At the AGM in June John Troake was announced as Taunton's new DC – great news but another DC to support and to 'run into the role'. That makes three since I finished as DC in 2009!

With a new DC in post the District Team all have to review with the DC what their future role might be – if one at all! Luckily I was still needed and negotiated the role of ADC General Duties. This meant I carried on with many of the duties I had done before with just a bit of a 'tweak'. Many are administration duties including the District Newsletter (by December 2011 it was number 147), dealing with the census, taking minutes, receiving Appointment certificates, supporting the Appointments Advisor Committee, keeping the County database up to date as that is where the District Directory is produced from. That is only just a little of what I seem to spend a lot of my time on dealing with Scouting matters. But as they say if it is still FUN why do anything different.

At the AGM I was presented with my 50 year service certificate by Peter Bourner, the District President.



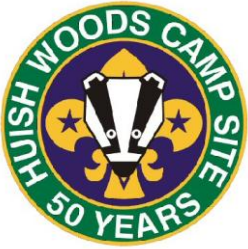
PETER BOURNER -TANGIER MANAGER



Our new stores for canoes, Guide camping equipment and Gang Show props is up and running! The photos show the bridge being swung into place behind Tangier.

The steady use of Tangier continues but if you have contacts in clubs or groups needing a room – remember Tangier please!

The rear wall is having a face lift!



2011 yet again turned out to be a busy and rewarding year for all who visit and work at Huish Woods.

The **DISTRICT BEAVER CAMP** finished early due to a very wet Sunday and the following weekend the District Cub Camp enjoyed better weather.

SOMERSET COUNTY EXPLORERS held their third Moot over the May Day Bank Holiday and one of their activities was a service element to the site.

A **NIGHTS AWAY TRAINING WEEKEND** was held in April and as ever, it was well attended.

The **COUNTY SCOUT CHALLENGE** took place in November.

During the year, many Scouts and Guide Groups from up and down the Country spent their weekends and summer camps enjoying our fantastic campsite.

The new toilet block was finished and open in time for the summer holidays and it has proved to be a great improvement on the previous toilet block making the Beacon Field an attractive place to camp.

The climbing and aerial runway towers were replaced during the year and they will serve us well for the future.

There were two events at Huish Woods that were very special. The visit by the Chief Scout, Bear Grylls in May and the site's 50th Birthday Camp in September.

For the **CHIEF SCOUTS VISIT**, Groups from the District and the County set up bases as well as the Practice Jamboree Camp. The Chief Scout arrived by helicopter and spent forty-five minutes visiting the bases taking part in them talking to young people and signing autographs.

As a souvenir of his visit to Huish Woods, the Chief Scout was presented with a Woggle made by Simon Lacey and he was seen wearing it at the World Jamboree in Sweden later in the year.





Over the weekend of 23rd to the 25th September we held our **50TH BIRTHDAY CAMP**

The District got together to celebrate with lots of different activities to watch and take part in. Having read the visitors book and all the smiling faces that I saw all had a great time.



Huish Woods has over its fifty years seen many changes but one thing that has not changed is the Woods unique atmosphere leaving all who have visited with happy countless memories and that must be worth something!

My thanks to the Service Crew, Instructors, and all who come to the Woods.

STEVE MITCHELL

Enjoy the next fifty years!

TRAINING IN TAUNTON DEANE DISTRICT

2011 was a very busy year for training in Taunton Deane. The modular training scheme has run smoothly, with courses organised at county level but delivered locally, often in Tangier. Courses have also run in Bishop's Lydeard, Huish Woods, Wellington and Wiveliscombe, in response to requests made by learners and Training Advisers.

Statistics for 2011

Taunton leaders have **completed 389 modules**. This is an enormous increase on 222 last year. To complete the modules, leaders have used a variety of methods including traditional training courses, e-learning, DVD, workbook and one-to-one.

Taunton leaders have **validated 620 modules** (another enormous increase from 406 in 2010). This includes modules where the training took place in previous years, and modules where the leader brought prior knowledge to the role and so moved to validation without any training being necessary.

Finally, **22 leaders** completed their training and were awarded their Wood Badge. The list is on the next page.

None of this would have been possible without the small group of **TRAINING ADVISERS** working in Taunton Deane, who give the help and support to make sure that our Leaders get the help they need. Training Advisers in 2011 were:

Bob Stark	Clive Welch	Denise Parker
Duncan Biddulph	Jacqui Hopkins	Jan Crocker
John Troake	June Hick	Katherine Taylor
Marian Scott	Mark Stephenson	Martin Allen
Pam Gaines	Robin Harris	Shaun Dale
Steve Altria	Steve Walker	Terry Smedley

If you would like to find out about becoming a Training Adviser to support new leaders and those changing roles, please contact Nicky Allen. The role is a very rewarding one, and it fits really well with other commitments.

To find the dates of this training, or any other courses, ask a Training Adviser or any other member of the training team, or go to somersetscoutsinfo.org.uk and select 'Training Dates' at the top right.

Many of the training resources (DVDs, e-learning packages and workbooks) are freely available to look at on the national scouts.org.uk website – look for training in the 'Member Resources' section.

NICKY ALLEN – LOCAL TRAINING MANAGER

FIRST RESPONSE – MODULE 10

All Sections Leaders, Helpers, Network, Young Leaders and Explorers are encouraged to complete a '1st Response' first aid training course within their first year of service.

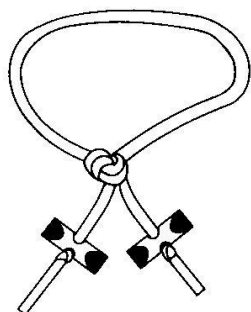
This year 4 Full courses and 3 Refreshers have been run in Taunton District. A full course consists of 6 hours of training and the Refresher course 2 plus hours of training.

Altogether 40 Leaders have completed the Full course and 26 the Refresher Course. These numbers include leaders from around the County and members of the Guide Movement from Taunton Division.

Leaders need to renew their certificate every 3 years and after 2 renewals Leaders are required to attend a Full course again.

We are most grateful to Roy Crocker, our First Aid Trainer, who devotes so much of his time and effort in providing this essential training for the Leaders and young people in Taunton Deane District

JUNE HICK – DISTRICT TRAINING ADMINISTRATOR



WOOD BADGES GAINED DURING 2011

CONGRATULATIONS TO :-

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ROLE</u>	<u>WOOD BADGE GAINED</u>
STEVE SUMMERILL	GSL WILTON	MANAGER WOOD BADGE
STEVE HOLDEN	SL HENLADE	SCOUT WOOD BADGE
HIPPY DAVIS	ACSL WIVELISCOMBE	CUB WOOD BADGE
ANDREW KNIGHT	ASL STAPLEGROVE	SCOUT WOOD BADGE
PAULA WILLIAMS	BSL WELLINGTON	BEAVER WOOD BADGE
MARTIN ALLEN	PACK ASSISTANT S'GROVE	CUB WOOD BADGE
NIC THOMPSON	BSL CENTRAL TAUNTON	BEAVER WOOD BADGE
CLIVE WELCH	ADC CUBS	MANAGER WOOD BADGE
ROBIN GREEN	ASL WEST TAUNTON	SCOUT WOOD BADGE
JOHN GALLIMORE	ESL TANGIER UNIT	EXPLORER WOOD BADGE
DUNCAN BIDDULPH	GSL/GROUP MANAGER	MANAGER WOOD BADGE
JAN CROCKER	ABSL WIVELISCOMBE	BEAVER WOOD BADGE
PETER WALLING	CSL WILTON	CUB WOOD BADGE
FRED DRAKEFORD	ACSL WEST HATCH	CUB WOOD BADGE
SAM COX	ACSL ROCKWELL GREEN	CUB WOOD BADGE
ROLY WEAVER	AGSL WELLINGTON	MANAGER WOOD BADGE
HAZEL ALTRIA	AGSL WELLINGTON	MANAGER WOOD BADGE
NICK TURNER	AESL WELLINGTON	EXPLORER WOOD BADGE
JO LUKE	CSL CENTRAL TAUNTON	CUB WOOD BADGE
TIM GAINES	ASL WIVELISCOMBE	SCOUT WOOD BADGE
ROBIN HARRIS	ESL WILTON DRAGONS	EXPLORER WOOD BADGE
PETER WALLING	AESL WILTON DRAGONS	EXPLOPRER WOOD BADGE

RESIDENTIAL EXPERIENCES IN TAUNTON DEANE DISTRICT

It is widely acknowledged that many young people love camping, and research shows that one of the main reasons for joining Scouting is to go on residential experiences. We less often remember that this is also true for many of the adults involved in Scouting!



In 2011 it has been an enormous privilege to work with many leaders who have applied for a Nights Away Permit, as they want to lead residential experiences, and to give help and support to others as they developed their skills. At the end of 2011 the number of leaders holding a permit was 62; with new permits gained exactly balancing out those cancelled through adults leaving Scouting or choosing not to renew their expired permit.

2011 saw two significant changes to the organisation of residential experiences.

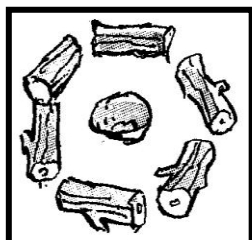
First, there were changes to rules governing residential experiences for Beavers, as early in 2011 new opportunities for Beavers were introduced:

- Family camps continue – no restriction on length, but parent / carer has to be present throughout
- Sleepovers (without parents) continue – but the 24 hour restriction has been removed (still one night only)
- Beavers may now camp without a parent (one night only)
- A new Standard for Colonies was introduced – Beavers must have the opportunity to attend a residential experience each year
- There is a requirement for the provision of alternative accommodation 'within reasonable distance'

Also, the training was altered: Module 16, now called 'Introduction to Residential Experiences' is a module that section leaders must complete, in order for them to get their Wood Badge, and it is a short course of about 2 hours. The course explains how residential experiences are run in Scouting, and about the permit scheme. This course runs several times through the year. There is also an optional course that any adult can do, M38 'Skills for Residential Experiences'. This course is delivered in two chunks; the first, delivered in one day, looks at the planning and preparation for a camp or sleepover. This is followed by a residential weekend where many of the skills of camping are covered. This optional course ran twice in 2011 and was well received.

NICKY ALLEN – LOCAL TRAINING MANAGER

GONE HOME



DON MORTON sadly passed away 23/3/2011 at Chelston Nursing Home. Don had held a number of roles in the District including District Vice President, Scout Fellowship Member, Campsite Committee Chairman, District Treasurer etc. He was a Medal of Merit holder and had completed over 30 years service to Scouting. In the 1950's he was an ASL at Staplegrove.



TEN TORS 2011.

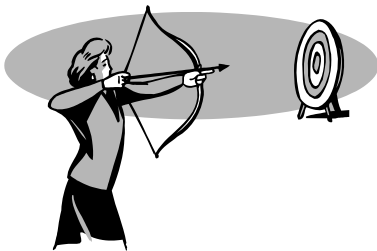
The District team had a full house this year with a team in each of the 3 categories of 35, 45 and 55 mile routes. Ten Tors is a challenge hike run by the military on Dartmoor during May and teams of 6 young people have to hike over one of the distances of 35, 45 or 55 miles with a full kit of approx 30lb over two days.

They set off with 400 teams from the south west on Saturday morning at 7am, (wakened at 5am with the songs like "Chariots of Fire" from the loud speaker system) and return to the Okehampton camp by 5pm on the Sunday night. On their route they have to check into 10 tor checkpoints, hence Ten Tors challenge.

The young people who take on this challenge work extremely hard on a progressive training and selection programme which starts just before Christmas each year and ends with the challenge during May. They need to be congratulated on their efforts in representing Taunton District Explorer Scouts. The training is used as a basis for their Queen Scout Award Expedition training and is always open to any Scout, Explorer or Network member between thirteen and a half and nineteen by August of the challenge year.

Taunton District Ten Tors teams have built up a very good relation with the Ten Tors organisation over the last 6 years and hope to continue next year. We now have a team of dedicated training and hill walking advisors who organise and run the training. Wellington and Wiveliscombe Scout Group have also put in for a 35mile team this year. Anyone wanting to help or know more about this challenge hike don't hesitate to call

STEVE WALKER
TAUNTON DISTRICT ADVISOR FOR TEN TORS.



ARCHERY

We have had another busy time on the shooting line, with high demand from local groups and visitors. The light weight bows purchased last year, has opened up Archery to some of our younger members. The big bows are heavy enough poundage to satisfy most adults.

I am greatly obliged to the instructors who have given extra help with teaching and repairs while I have been out of action. For the next "Archery Leaders" course talk to Huish Woods office who will pass you enquiry on as required. Any instructor needing a refresher please leave a message for me at Huish Woods and I will be happy to sort out a session and do some revision.

DAVID MARKS ARCHERY ADVISOR.

After a very busy 2010, with the Girlguiding UK finale to complete its centenary celebrations, 2011 was supposed to be quieter, but when I look back at the events we enjoyed over the past year it was anything but quiet!

As one of my first duties as Taunton Division Commissioner I was delighted to tell all the units across Taunton and Tone Division that the Guide Shop would be giving them a £250 donation to spend as they wished - this was over £13,000 in total. Many units used it to go out on daytrips, contributions to holidays etc.

As part of South West Region Girlguiding 40th anniversary celebrations, they held a fun day named Pizazz at Westpoint, Exeter. Activities included circus skills, ice skating, bouncy castles, magical entertainers, mega slide, archery, climbing, various creation stations etc. Over 210 rainbows, brownies, guides, senior section and leaders attended this tiring but exciting day.

The following weekend, Taunton and Tone Division held a summer fayre at Tangier to raise money for Somermead which is Somerset and North Somerset's Girlguiding Campsite and Lodge near Cheddar where we raised £375.00.

In September a wet and wild weekend at Wimbleball Reservoir was enjoyed by a numbers of Guides, Senior Section members and Leaders.

A number of Guiders attended the Huish Woods 50th Birthday weekend in September.

Early in 2011 the news reached us that **GILL SLOCOMBE** had been appointed **CHIEF GUIDE**. Gill was a Guide Guider at Wilton, Taunton Division Guide Commissioner, County Guide Commissioner then Chief Commissioner Guiding South West. We all wished her well in her new role and were sure that she would be seen out and about in Somerset as that is where she lives!



All the above events were in addition to normal Guiding meetings so you can see that Taunton Division is keeping busy with another busy year ahead.

Sheena Grinter
Taunton Division Guide Commissioner

SCOUT GROUPS



GROUP SCOUT LEADER/GROUP CONTACT

BISHOPS LYDEARD	YVONNE BACK	432151
CENTRAL	GEOFF PINNEY (Manager)	442584
HENLADE	BARBARA WILLIAMS	444128
NORTH	KATHERINE TAYLOR (CSL)	330369
ROCKWELL GREEN	CHRIS COX	07926732230
STAPLEGROVE	CHRIS OWEN	332886
STOKE ST GREGORY	GAVIN SADLER	07802 696870
TAUNTON PREP. SCH.	ROGER MARTIN (CSL)	01984 656909
TRINITY	STACEY KEATING (BSL)	256167
TRULL	STEVE WALKER	253150
WELLINGTON	STEVE ALTRIA	666295
WEST HATCH	PETER BAWLER	480037
WEST MONKTON	LIZ REYNOLDS	432796
WEST TAUNTON	BOB STARK	283218
WILTON	STEVE SUMMERILL	251537
WIVELISCOMBE	PAM GAINES	01984 6242657

TAUNTON DEANE EXPLORER SCOUTS

DESC	PAM GAINES	01984 6242657
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