

## Reporting back from America!

Last summer I spent 2 weeks at the Boy Scouts of America National Jamboree as part of the Welsh Troop.

I flew out from Heathrow airport to get to Washington D.C. After arriving at midnight, we went to the hotel, which was huge. We had two days touring around Washington. I saw the Whitehouse, the Capital Building which was amazingly big, then the Lincoln Memorial - very impressive, also the Imperial War Gardens. After that we went to the U.S. Natural Museum, then the Vietnam Memorial.

Next it was onto the Jamboree for a further 10 days. While there we got to see the President of the USA. There were loads of activities open to us here are a few we took part in - clay pigeon shooting, axe throwing, motocross, scuba diving, snorkeling, archery. I stayed with troop 1442 Northeast Illinois Council, and made lots of new friends, they were a great bunch. There were over 50,000 Scouts in all. I met Scouts from Miami, San Francisco, Vancouver, Sweden, Canada, Boston, Cuba and many more from all over the world.

After the Jamboree I travelled to Richmond, Virginia to a truly lovely family for home hospitality. Day 1 - We went to a massive water park where we all chilled out. Day 2 - It was time to pack and get ready to go home, but not before we went shopping in WALL MART!

I had the most terrific time of my life!!!!



Daniel Court  
Viking Explorer Unit

## Explorers from Pembrokehire meet the Chief Scouts



**During their time at Eurojam a few of the Explorers from the Sir Benfro contingent were lucky enough to meet the Chief Scout, He Peter Duncan. He stopped to talk to them as they were exploring the camp on the first day. They told me how they did their best to get Wales shown throughout the camp as they wore hats, flags, t-shirts and even bannisters with the Welsh flag on! They were also snapped up at the opening ceremony, at Gilwell and also on celebrate Europe day. One of the members also appeared on the Eurojam DVD!**



## A little about the editor.....

What can I tell you about Vikki? She is friendly, outgoing, full of fun and one of the most dedicated members of the movement I know.

I first met Vikki when she was a Cub Scout. I thought she looked like an elf with a bad arm—she was tiny and had an arm full of badges and needed a sling to keep them up! (only joking!). She was the first girl to join our group and she has followed on to join Cubs, Scouts, Explorers and now is a member of the Network.

About 3 years ago she started talking about a warrant, Mum is the Beaver leader and Vikki has helped out for some time so naturally I thought that she would carry it on. No way, once again she shocked us all, Cubs then?, again no. she wanted to become a Scout leader!

Sure enough, on her 18th birthday she applied for a warrant as a Scout leader. The youngsters have taken to her big time and she has brought many new ideas to the troop.

As her GSL I am pleased and proud the she is part of our team and that she is willing to be the editor for 'WES the snail'

Well, there you have it, the very first edition of WES the snail! If you have any comments or ideas for the following editions or if you and your group have got anything that you would like to put into the next edition please feel free to send it to WES at his very own email address

[wesnewsletter@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:wesnewsletter@hotmail.co.uk)

# WES the SNAIL

Wales Explorer Scouts the Seasonal News And Information Letter



Issue 1 Spring 2006



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Don't forget to check out the Welsh Explorer website at [www.scouts.org.uk/wales](http://www.scouts.org.uk/wales) & click on the Explorer logo

Well here it goes, the first of many editions of WES the snail!! To start off I will explain the name...after the last Explorer Forum meeting in a group of Explorers and I were joking about how the names for AWESOME and MOLES came around. We then realised that they were acronyms... so we decided to come up with a name for the newsletter in a similar way! Being the mad Explorers that we ALL are we thought it should have an animal theme (well the Cubs and Beavers do, its only fair!) so we came up with 'WES the snail'. Wales Explorer Scouts Seasonal News And Information Leaflet. So there you have him, WES our little buddy in the corner!

This newsletter is designed to let you Explorer Scouts know a little more of what is happening around the country, so that you can join in with events being held, communicate with others from around Wales and get an idea of what Explorers is about. This newsletter is going to be posted directly to the each Explorer in Wales, so if you know or hear of any Explorer Scout who hasn't received this newsletter in the post, please get them to send their name, address, date of birth and District to [moz\\_scouts@hotmail.com](mailto:moz_scouts@hotmail.com) or Moz, 55 Bradley Rd, Wrexham, LL13 7TG.

## !! Full speed ahead for Team X !!

The Welsh Scout Council is delighted to announce that we have been successful in our application for funding for Team X. The funding is from the Millennium Stadium Charitable Trust - we are extremely grateful to them.

Team X will be a special Young Leaders Unit open to any Young Leader from Wales. It's main aim is to provide training and support to Explorer

Scouts who are Young Leaders in Districts which find it difficult to run training courses. Lots of Explorer Scouts live in isolated towns & villages that don't have Explorer Scout Units. Their only involvement in Scouting is as Young Leaders with Beavers,

Cubs or Scouts. Team X will be there to give these Explorers the training they deserve, give them opportunity to meet others of their own age, and to make them feel part of something bigger! However Team X isn't just for those described above - any Young

Leader from Wales is welcome to be part of the action!

This is how Team X will work: There will be several Team X weekends throughout the year. Some will cover Young Leader Training and Taking the Lead training, others will be practical courses on things like Single Pitch Award, canoeing etc. Anyone who attends one of the courses will be part of Team X and get a polo shirt! Members of Team X we will be expected to help out on Wales and Area events such as the All Wales Scout Camp, Wales Cub Fun Day etc.

(see enclosed flyer for dates of Team X events and how to book.)



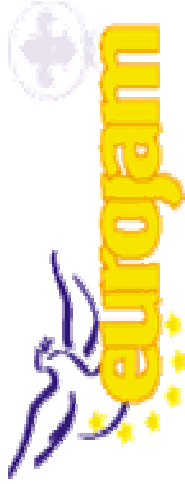
## Serbia exposed!

14 Explorer Scouts are joining forces with a further 17 movement members from around the British Isles are getting ready to take part in a once in a life time expedition to gain one of the highest awards in Scouting!



The Explorer Belt is the challenge of a lifetime, which is open to Explorer Scouts aged over 16 and members of the Scout Network. It is a chance to take part in a ten-day expedition that brings a real understanding of a different country, its people and way of life. The Explorer belt is sometimes described as 'the antidote to the package holiday'. It is designed to help young people develop a real understanding of another country, travelling through that country, completing surprise projects, working as a small team and meeting local people.

This trek is to take place this summer and is being organised by Andy Mitchell of the CATVOG area. The trip will last for 16 days, each day being even more challenging than the previous. The 12 teams are flying to Belgrade from Heathrow to begin their expedition of the century.



I had a wonderful time camping for 12 days with 9,999 other Scouts and guides from all over the world. With only two days of typical British weather we still had chance to make our mark when our tent blew away. Not I hasten to add, due to faulty pitching. The rest of the time was glorious sunshine.

The 18 strong Pembrokeshire contingent was the only Welsh group in the Carpathian sub-camp. The rest of this unit was made up of groups from Scotland, Greece, Cyprus, Portugal, Catalonia, USA, Canada, Eire, Switzerland, Sweden, France to name but a few. There were eight other similar sub-camps altogether, with 68 countries from all the continents of the world represented somewhere or other. As you can imagine I had the opportunity to mix with teenagers with other cultures, faiths and languages. I was able to use my French and English as well as learning a few words of Slovenian, Finnish, Nigerian, Hindi, Swiss and German and was able to teach our sub-camp leader some Welsh. On Celebrate Europe Day we not only went round tasting food from other countries but also entertained guests from other sub-camps to Cawl, Bara Brith and Welsh Cakes.

There were three off site activities; a visit to Gilwell Park - the home of Scouting; Splash - a day of canoeing, bell boating, kayaking and sailing; Starburst - a community based activity, where we made a children's garden at a local hospital. I thoroughly enjoyed all of these activities. On site activities included a climbing wall, 'Eurovilles' actively integrating with teenagers from other countries to make and do things; music workshops, campfires, stage shows, cinema, circus skills not to mention the grand opening and closing ceremonies.

During the event I met a pen friend from Canada to whom I had been writing as a child, another from Lancashire UK and the Chief Scout Peter Duncan. I also used the opportunity to increase my international badge collection by swapping with other Scouts.



## 100 Years of Scouting .....not something you want to miss!

Unfortunately, by the time this gets to you, the deadline for applying to attend the World Jamboree will have passed. We really hope that your District has let you have all the info you need. **HOWEVER** - it **may** not be too late. We can't promise anything, but if you are interested in attending but haven't let anyone know yet, still ask you District Commissioner to contact the Welsh Scout Council. There **may** be places left over. If you are going to be over 18 next year and would like to go to the world jamboree in 2007 as IST you can now register your interest on the 2007 website.

## AWESOME!!!

That is the only word to describe it!!!

The first ever AWESOME camp took place at The Biblins in the Forest of Dean from the 8th-10th July. Over 120 Explorers from Wales and beyond took part.

The weekend long camp was enjoyed by all who took part. There were so many activities to participate in, including Gazebo Speed Dating™, human clothes horse competitions, pioneering, canoeing, climbing archery and even bungee running!

The weekend is taking place once again in 2007, so my advice is book your place as soon as details are sent out to avoid



disappointment. Remember you can go as an individual as well as with your unit, there are plenty of other units willing to 'adopt' you for the duration!

The camp was also a public relations triumph both internally and externally.

Most of the staff and organising team were members of Network Wales, so Explorers got to find out about the next Section open to them, and many members of the public in this tourist hotspot were handed adult recruitment leaflets as they watched the Explorers and Leaders having fun.



## PLEASE!!!!!!!

Remember, this is YOUR newsletter!

To get the most out of it please send me your articles, jokes, stories, photos, calendar of events, etc, etc. I would like to include stories from every corner of the Principality so that everyone knows what is going on.

So budding authors, sharpen your quills, future David Bailey's get snapping and all you comedians out there send me your Scouty jokes.

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