



2nd Nene Scout Group - Apollo Scout Troop NEWS LETTER 22 MARCH 2010

APOLLO

Issue 22 March 2010

The term is drawing to a close and it will soon be Easter. Since Christmas we have had an action packed programme that has included first aid training, stoves and lamps and pancake-making.

- **[Apollo & Challenger Day/Evening Hike](#)**

Our winter hikes that start in the daylight and finish in the dark are now referred to as “The Chip Shop Hike” because in recent years invariably they have finished at a chip shop. There was not a cloud in the sky but it was cold and muddy as 19 Scouts from APOLLO and CHALLENGER troops together with 11 Leaders & Helpers completed the 13km hike from Sawtry to Yaxley with the help of Graham who acted as Route Marshall & competition co-ordinator.

The competition was to find flags that Graham had placed along the route and mark their position on a map together with their grid references. Each Flag represented a letter, which, when rearranged spelt a word. The winning Group was lead by Nathan who did most of the Grid references.

- **[Apollo & Challenger Norfolk Camp](#)**

This was our first visit to Roughton Mill near Cromer. 13 Scouts & 6 Leaders and helpers took part. When we arrived we pitched dome tents inside the building to give Scouts their own space and privacy for sleeping.

After breakfast on Saturday we started preparation for our exotic evening meal. Bread dough was made and left to prove; and pork was left to marinade in a home made preparation. The smell of garlic, lemon and yeast pervading the building was interesting before we left but even stronger when we returned in the afternoon. We hiked through the countryside to the coast and spent some time playing with the waves on the beach before returning to the Mill.

Saturday evening was spent completing and eating our exotic all homemade meal that included mini pizza starters, vegetable soup with home made bread, marinated roast pork and vegetables, cookies and profiteroles.

The plan for Sunday was to abseil down the side of the old mill. The instructors arrived and set up the ropes before briefing us all. But before we could get started we were surrounded by snow and had to abandon abseiling for safety reasons. As always Steve had a back up plan and we spent a couple of hours in the Sheringham Tropical Leisure Pool instead.

- **[Zatego](#)**

3 Apollo teams entered this year’s adventure through the mysterious land of Zatego that appears in Ferry Meadows each March. Each team was set tasks in the “I’m A Scout Get Me Out of Here” competition. For the first time in its 26 year history there was a competitive aspect with teams collecting stars according to how well tasks were completed. Bases were organised by Leaders, Helpers and Explorers from around Nene District including Apollo Troop and our friends from Challenger Troop and Orton Explorers. Unfortunately Nathan banged his head and had to be taken to hospital with concussion but he was fine by the following troop meeting.

- **[SWAN Training](#)**

In preparation for this year’s **[SWAN](#)** sailing expedition to The Broads, Tom, Paul, Becky and Jonathan from Apollo Troop have been attending training sessions with the rest of the Peterborough contingent and those from Somersham. We are off to The Broads on Good Friday for a week and are hoping for another successful year.

These activities have taken a lot of organising and preparation by a committed team of leaders and helpers, thank you very much to all of those who have made the weekly meetings and extra activities happen. Further information and pictures may be found on the website (<http://www.2ndnenescouts.uk.com/>).

[Tesco & Sainsbury Vouchers](#)

We have registered with Sainsbury’s “Active Kids” and the “Tesco for Schools and Clubs” campaigns. These campaigns present an excellent opportunity to renew and extend our sports and games equipment.

We will collect the vouchers for the whole of 2nd Nene Group. Please bring vouchers to weekly meetings and hand to the Leaders.

Apollo Troop Membership

Since Christmas the Troop has said "goodbye" to Ryan, Fergus, George, Daniel and Calumn, we wish them all well for the future. The Troop has welcomed Chloe, who moved up from Cubs and Isaac and Andy, who are both joining the Scout Movement for the first time. We hope they all have an enjoyable time with Apollo Troop.

The troop currently has 32 members but at the end of term Becky, Paul, Nathan and Chris will be going up to Explorer Scouts. All have had a successful 4 years in Apollo Troop and while we are sad to lose them we wish them all the best for the future and hope to see them in our liaisons with the ever growing Orton Explorer Unit.

The pressure on our numbers has been alleviated by the reopening of Challenger Troop (meetings on Thursdays) and we are pleased to say that it is growing steadily.

Transfer of Cubs into Apollo and Challenger troops will be coordinated with the Cub Scout Leaders. For the time being Challenger troop will be the first option for transfers and new members, while Apollo troop will be restricted to siblings of current members and those who genuinely can't make Thursdays.

Anyone wishing to join either troop is asked to supply us with: Full Name; Date of Birth; Address; Current Scouting / Guiding unit and position; Previous Scouting / Guiding units and positions. We will not be in a position to deal with and accommodate new members who turn up to a troop meeting unannounced.

Badges and Awards

During the term Nathan was awarded the highest Scout Award - the Chief Scout's Gold Award - he put in a lot of hard work to achieve this by completing the Creative, Outdoor, Community, Global, Fitness, Promise, Adventure and Outdoor Plus Challenges. This is the first time this has been awarded to an Apollo Scout. Hopefully Nathan will inspire others to take on the challenge. Well done Nathan.

We have also awarded IT2 to Matthew, Martial Arts to Stephen and the Creative Challenge to Jessica.

A big thank you is due to Glynis for keeping the records and chasing the Scouts to get their record books signed up.

Scouts: don't forget to go through your Scout Record Book and Scout Badge Book to find skills and achievements (attained with Scouts or elsewhere) that you can get signed towards Badges and Awards

PLs and APLs

During the term we confirmed Patrol Leadership and all PLs and APLs renewed their Scout Promise before the Troop and were awarded badges as follows:

- Eagles - Chris (PL), APL currently vacant
- Hawks - Paul (PL), Ryan (APL)
- Falcons - Hannah (PL), Jack (APL)
- Kestrels - Jonathan (Acting PL), APL vacant
- Owls - Becky (PL), Daniel (APL)
- Ravens - Nathan (PL), Thomas (APL)

There will be another patrol re-shuffle after Easter to take account of the PLs that go up to Explorers.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 22 nd March.	Last meeting before Easter
Friday 2 nd - Sat 10 th April 2010.	SWAN 60 Norfolk Broads Sailing Expedition.
Monday 12 th April 2010.	NO TROOP MEETING TONIGHT.
Monday 12 th April 2010. 7:15-10:00	Apollo Troop Leaders Planning Meeting. Anyone who wishes to help with the troop is welcome. If you are coming please advise me in case we have to change the venue.
Monday 19 th April 2010	FIRST APOLLO MEETING OF THE SUMMER TERM.
Sunday 25 th April 2010	Peterborough Scouts St. George's Day Parade – All Scouts and Leaders are asked to make every effort to attend – Please keep this date clear.
Sat 8 th & Sun 9 th May 2010.	Mepal – County Incident Camp
Sat 12 th June 2010	Cambridgeshire Scouts County White Water Canoeing Day - Cardington
May 2010 (TBC)	Peterborough Scout & Guide Canoe Club summer weekly sessions commence
Sat 10 th – Sun 11 th July 2010	Local Apollo Hike & Camp – Wadenhoe near Thrapston
Monday 19 th July	LAST APOLLO TROOP MEETING OF TERM
Sat 21 st or Sun 22 nd August	Gliding Date confirmed – Details issued
Fri 29 th – Sun 29 th Oct 2010.	Apollo/Challenger Camp – Gradbach near Buxton

Leadership, Parents and Supporters

Help from parents and other adult supporters is always very much appreciated. If you would like to help with any future events please see one of the leaders. Please note that all over 18's taking part in Scout activities involving under 18's more than once every 28 days (currently under review) or overnight, must be CRB cleared by the Scout Association prior to helping regularly with activities. ***This is at no cost to you.*** Parents and supporters who would like to be CRB cleared for future activities please speak to one of the leaders or contact the Assistant Group Scout Leader Tim Burgess tim.burgess100@ntlworld.com

***To find out more about what the Troop has and will be doing have a look at our website.
Just Google 2nd Nene or use the following URL. <http://www.2ndnenscouts.uk.com/>***

Further information can also be obtained by contacting one of the leaders shown below.

Troop Meetings - Just as a reminder

We try to have the HQ open by 6:55pm

Scouts are asked to:

- Arrive for troop meeting in time to register and pay subscriptions before opening parade, inspection and flag break at 7:15pm.
- Notify their Patrol Leader if they will not be attending (Only Patrol Leaders should contact leaders directly).
- Be on parade (standing quietly at their place in "the horseshoe" at 7:15pm wearing full smart uniform (or dressed appropriately for a special activity when notified).
- Bring along a change of clothes for inside and outside activities (including coat and footwear). We will try to give notice of outside activities but sometimes we have to take advantage of favourable conditions at short notice. (There are still Scouts who come to troop meetings without a sweater and coat and are surprised if part of the meeting may be out of doors).
- Get changed after Flag Break (Girls in the ladies toilets, Boys in their Patrol Corner), pack uniform away tidily into a bag and store it in the fixtures provided for each patrol.
- Get changed back into uniform for flag down and prayers at the end of the meeting.
- Take note of notices and pass on notices to the appropriate person at home.

Leaders should be available to talk to parents and welcome new members from approximately 7:45pm once registration and opening ceremonies are out of the way and the main activities are under way or after flag down.

Parent / Carer Emergency Contacts

We have emergency contact details for all members. If your contact details change or if they will be different during a troop meeting please can you send along a note with any changes (indicating if permanent or for how long they apply) so that the records can be updated or the temporary details held on file.

*Happy Easter
Greg & Phil*

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This Newsletter can be found at <http://www.2ndnenscouts.uk.com/news>

If you are viewing this NEWSLETTER online then more information can be seen by clicking the blue text above (hyperlink)