

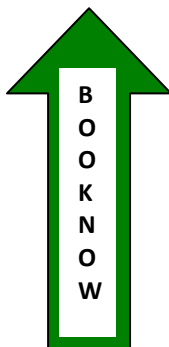


One chilly Saturday morning in December, 18 leaders from across the County plus the county team, gathered at Chalfont for the Explorer Leaders Conference. Tom Ovenstone from the Gilwell Development Team was there to bring us up to date on the latest developments and new parts to the Explorer training programme. There are a number of new badges and new criteria for some existing badges, but he assured us that the current training material was still good up until 2009. After lunch there was a market place session with heaps of information available on organising camps abroad, hiking expeditions, water activities, programmes ideas and awards. Many took part in the games sessions and the leaders I spoke with all felt they had something new to take back to their Units. Everyone agreed that it had been a good day and had found networking with other leaders most useful. We want to run this again at the end of his year and hopefully have a bigger attendance of ESLs and DESCs.

Future events planned are:

Expedition Training Course

This will be over three weekends



This will enable Explorers to achieve their Bronze or Silver DofE or Platinum or Diamond Scout Award

1st-3rd March - Walton Firs Camp Site and will cover all aspects of planning and preparation for DofE/Scout Award hikes.

28th-30th March - North Wales and will include a practice hike.

These two weekends come as one package at £46 total. Previous experience is not necessary but the two weekends must be attended in order to do assessed hike on the July wkd

4th-6th July – (venue and cost to be decided) for the assessed hike. Details from Maxcine Hill on maxcinehill@aol.com

2008 Cote d'Opale

16th-18th May - a fun weekend sand yachting, swimming and hiking. Reply very soon as places are limited. Details from Andrea Childs on andichilds@ukonline.co.uk

5-a-side Football Competition

Sunday 13th July @ Goals. Details from Paul Dickson on paul.r.dickson@btinternet.com

Plenty to keep your Explorers happy and more to follow later in the year.

Andrea Childs CESA