



Bucks Jamboree Unit Update March 2014

Welcome to the Second update from the Bucks 2015 Jamboree unit. As before the issue is largely aimed at District teams and those who were involved in the selection of the contingent members, but please pass on to a wider audience to help promote the Jamboree and support the chosen contingent members.

Unit Web Site

The unit has now set up a Website japanunit8.co.uk/ which is primarily for use by the contingent members, full details are not published for Child protection reasons, but if you need specific details please contact one of the leaders; however we are looking to provide a photo page accessible by anyone.

Unit Training

The Unit's first training weekend and get together (indoor) took place at Phasel's Wood in February. The leader team arrived on the Friday, and in true St Valentine's day tradition had a candle lit dinner (yes we were away for the 14th, I do like to live on the edge)....because the electricity went off.

This was the first opportunity for the unit members to meet each other and for us to impart lot of information about the Jamboree, the training schedule and fundraising. The members took part in a number of team building activities, orienteering, badge design and unit identity, fund raising and writing the unit's Code of Conduct. We borrowed a number of artefacts from the Japanese Embassy for everyone to hold, examine and play with. Paul Rawlins came along and ran a Sumo game which went down well and we may introduce to groups around the county. We

decorated chopsticks and had a relay game involving picking up sweets, some easy like marshmallows, some more difficult such as Smarties. We closed the weekend with a parents meeting to enable us to pass on some information directly and to provide a forum for questions and answers. A great weekend with 34 out of 36 very excited young people being present, one in France being involved via Skype.

In March we held a Training day at Stokenchurch HQ. We arranged a number of activities some involving teamwork, others group discussion, all to have fun. The first activity was in patrols, to make a shelter out of paper and sticky tape...We then looked at designs for a gateway, one of the popular ideas being to have a sheet to enable Scouts from around the world to sign. The unit went on a short hike, and even the member on crutches made their way round, in true team spirit style. Possibly the main activity, or at least the most noisy was that of Taiko Drumming. Alison Green a local Scout and Guide leader got us all taking part in this Japanese art, I think she thought we were too British in our drumming though... not loud enough. We continued with badge designing. Last but not least Stuart created lunch Japanese style, Miso soup with noodles followed by Sushi, everyone tried some of each; at the Jamboree we are probably going to eat traditional Japanese food. One comment overheard was 'I don't like this much, but with practice I might get to'.....

Our next training weekend will be in April, which will be our first camping weekend as a Unit. This will be used as an opportunity to brush up on some of the camping and

Buckinghamshire County Scout Council

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Scouting/Guiding skills the unit members have. I know all the unit members are looking forward to this milestone. Also one of our overseas members is to attend.

Money Matters

Fund raising is an area of concern for the Young People and I ask that you support them in this. Thank you to those who have either bought or will be buying from the YP the Solidarity Badges, £1 of which goes towards their fund raising.

As a Unit we are looking for fund raising opportunities to take on, so if you know of anyone who needs an enthusiastic bunch people to do a task please point them in our direction. So far events planned include car parking, tent pitching and carrying of picnic equipment.

Publicity

With the County Website up and running we will be providing updates here also.

At the First weekend we were visited by Nigel Taylor, who is the Scout Association Local Media Support Officer. He got our weekend mentioned in the local Milton Keynes press (see link below)

<http://www.miltonkeynes.co.uk/news/community/community-news/scouts-heading-for-jamboree-in-japan-1-5884918>

Anyone with links to Media please contact myself or the Unit communications champion Cathy Herron.
cathyherron@rocketmail.com

More information

If you are looking for more information about the Jamboree, the following websites are available:

www.scouts.org.uk/wsj

<http://www.23wsj.jp/>

<http://bucks-scouts.org.uk/jamboree-2015/>

(Information to be uploaded)

Unit Website

japanunit8.co.uk/

or contact one of the Jamboree leaders

