



AUSTRIA - GO FOR IT!

October 2009 - Bulletin 1

Carol's Countdown – 10 months to go!



My first 6 months as the expedition leader has flown past. I'm very pleased to say we now have 500 confirmed bookings for the trip to Austria next summer. Not only do we have Scouts from Greater London South East but have now been joined by troops from Barnet in North London and Hastings, very glad you can join us!

Between the whole team, we carried out over 15 presentations to various districts and groups in GLSE. If anyone else would still like to see the presentation it's not too late. Just let me know, because having done 15 already, I am just soooo excited to see the video one more time! Jeka have been very flexible and are keeping us updated on

how many places are still available in the Lechtal Valley, we therefore plan to try to accommodate late bookings until 31st December.

During a pre-visit to Austria this summer, we were able to meet the staff from Jeka and see how they cope with many groups arriving in the height of season. We spoke with the groups and leaders to get their experiences of Jeka and the feedback was very positive. One of the coach drivers we met was in his 28th season of visiting Austria with Jeka; thankfully the coaches are considerably newer, fitted with toilets, fridges and DVD players!

All the Scouts and leaders we spoke to were more than happy with the quantity and quality of the food provided, Jeka are very well organised. The accommodation is retro 70's; before many of you were born. However, it is all clean and full of character, each village having a large outdoor communal area for meeting up for games.

And now to what you really want to know about, the activities. We went with a group to white water rafting (unfortunately not enough time to take part!) but listened to the safety talks which were clearly given in English. There was abundant kit at Feel Free

that all looked very well maintained. Extreme canyoning was a short drive from the villages, once kitted out in wetsuits and helmets, the group we were with had a mile walk to the start of the canyoning and were then able to successfully traverse down the river. The river is controlled by hydro electrics keeping a steady flow of water, ready for jumping into pools and coming down waterfalls. For rafting and white water rafting you will need to be able to swim. Can't swim? - Now's the time to set yourself a challenge and learn, including the adults!!

**By Carol Jackson
2010 Expedition Manager**

Payment Reminder

Just a little reminder, we need another £100 per person by 15th October to pay our next fees to Jeka Holidays, although I'm sure you were all on the case anyway!

Reminder of all payment dates:

- £100 – 15th October 2009
- £100 – 31st January 2010
- £100 – 31st March 2010
- £100 – 14th May 2010

Cheques payable to: GLSE Scouts

Send to: 2010 Treasurer, Russell Zapple, 34 Beaumont Road, Petts Wood, Kent, BR5 1JJ

Once we've received your 2nd payment with all your paperwork requested so far, we'll be sending you out your Austria 2010 badge (*1 free per person*).

Hopefully by then, we will have found someone to look after T-shirt/Badge ordering and distribution so that you can order your badges, etc. Alternatively, if anyone would be willing to take on this role contact Carol.....please!

How can you help us?

- Be prompt with replies to requests for information.
- Payment schedule – pay on time, we have to pay funds on time to Jeka.
- Get fit and learn some German!
- Permits – In order to get as many people doing the activities they want, please let us know what permits you hold. Nights Away, Walking, etc.

Are you fit for Austria?

Talking to the staff from Jeka, it became apparent that typically the European Scouts view extreme canyoning as an easy activity to do between two day hikes into the mountains. However, many British scouts are often exhausted by day two or three of the holiday. Let's start getting fit now for next year and prove that the British are fit and healthy! You don't have to join an expensive gym, simply walk more, cycle more, swim more, run around more at group meetings. It will all help towards your base level of fitness and that goes for the leaders, staff and networkers just as much as the cubs, scouts and explorers!

Walking: there are a range of walks you'll be able to do. The easiest will be 1-2 hours in each direction depending on how fast you walk or run....assuming your leaders can keep up, so a packed lunch to keep you going will be essential. These short walks usually end in a cafe or view point on the top of a hill. Next

up is 3-6 hours in each direction, for this you will be heading to a mountain hut to sleep overnight. Don't panic! Jeka will deliver your food supply to the hut for this. Finally, and this is only for the very fit, there are two different peaks you can climb to the top of with the aid of fully qualified mountain guides, there'll be no hut to sleep in so this will be a long day back down as well.

The Alpine Coaster: luckily we did have time to do this and what an experience! This will suit anyone aged 8yrs upwards and is a brilliant ride for any level of fitness. First off, we took the chair lift up the side of the mountain, which took between 5 and 15 minutes, depending on your perspective or you could, of course walk and skip the chair lift! Then onto the individual kart (or 2 to a kart if you're smaller) which is on a monorail, seat belted in and then set off by a green light. Push the handles forward and you go faster, let go and you slow

down, for me it was faster all the way to the bottom although I was slightly hindered by a slowcoach in front our County Commissioner Ben!

There are open air swimming pools nearby to most villages; every village has brilliant walks to do for all abilities not to mention cycle paths the length of the valley. We are currently booked to stay in Stanzach, Bach/Elbigenalp and Elmen and hope to arrange a mini Olympics in each village. There will be more details released in January about the activities and how to choose what you'd like to do.

We are still planning to take part in a local community project; we just need to establish what would be most suitable for the villages. We've made contact with the local Scout groups of 22 in Reutte a town a few miles away and hope to arrange to meet more Scouts from the Tyrolean Valley.

Meet some of the Austria Team

Carol Jackson - 2010 Expedition Manager

I have been involved in GLSE since 1994 when I jointly ran Phoenix Ranger & Venture Scout unit in Orpington with 2 other leaders. In 2000, with Claire McClellan, we ran an It's A Knockout competition for 700 guides and without the help of the County Venture Scouts we would have been lost. Having attended the 1999 Jamboree in Chile on the Service Crew, I have

since been part of the leadership team for the last 2 Jamborees in Thailand and the UK. Many of you may have been to Campdowne International camp where my role was to organize the activities with Adie Ryan, I hope you enjoyed them. I wouldn't have been able to do any of these things alone; being part of a great team is what makes events successful!

Adie Ryan – Deputy 2010 Expedition Manager

As a Ranger Guide, I have been on this very trip you will all be doing to the Lechtal Valley with Jeka Holidays and I had a fantastic time and am sure you will too. I have been involved in GLSE since 2000 when I met Carol & Claire at the It's A Knockout competition, I decided that it looked like they were having far more fun running the competition than I was preparing food! I attended the Thailand

Jamboree as part of IST, helping on the hospitality team. For Euro Jam and the UK Jamboree I worked considerably harder, as part of the main organising team for security. In 2004 I ran activities at Campdowne with Carol, then for 2008 Campdowne took on the whole role of Entertainment and Activities. Just when I thought I was free of scouting responsibilities I accidentally said yes again!

Sarah Zapple – Marketing & Communications Co-ordinator

Having been a member of the Scout Fellowship for several years, four years ago I became Chair of the Chislehurst District Fundraising Committee. During the past four years we have hosted numerous fundraising and promotional events for the Chislehurst District including the usual

Race Nights, Summer Balls, Golf Days and a fantastic Fun Day last May which saw over 1000 people through the gate and we were joined by Peter Duncan as one of his last official visits in his role as the previous Chief Scout. In my new role for this exciting Austria Expedition I have a great 2010 Marketing &

Communications team and we will be working with the GLSE Media Team to further promote scouting on both a local and national level, whilst aiming to gain corporate sponsorship and raise funds for some of the extras that we hope to include on the trip. We will also be organising the

departure party in London and will be able to tell you more about this next time. If any adult wishes to be closer to this and join us in the Marketing & Comms team, I would welcome an email at 2010Communications@glscouts.org.uk. This will be a trip we are all proud to be part of!