

## West Sussex NAGC Explorers Club

Newsletter Number 1 : March 2007

Welcome to this the first group news letter. I will be trying this out as a way of communicating group news over the next few months, in the hope that it is more efficient for all of us to collate news into a single letter rather than lots of separate e-mails. I'm not sure of the frequency yet – but I will aim for no more than once per month.

So what's new?

- Group AGM: We have been running for about a year now so it is time for our first AGM. You are all welcome and positively encouraged to attend. This is a self help group – if you don't come along we don't know what you want. Please e-mail me if you think you will come so that we can judge numbers. The agenda and more details are on the events page at [www.wsxnagc.org.uk](http://www.wsxnagc.org.uk)
- Buckeyballs. We are still finalising the last details of the buckeyballs day. Jonathan Hare is confirmed for the day which should be one of our best yet. Jonathan has great credentials, Rough Science on TV, a regular involvement with local G&T school projects and a personal interest in G&T education. If you think you will want to come please e-mail Yvonne to pre-register a place: [bookings@wsxnagc.org.uk](mailto:bookings@wsxnagc.org.uk) (Subject Buckeyballs pre-registration)
- Parents Conference in Canterbury on 17 March. One of the workshops is by NAGC. Please see the events page for a link to the conference web page. There are activities for children but only for 8yrs plus.
- Southampton Explorers are our neighbours, and run their own events. Members are welcome to attend the events of both groups if it's convenient. A link to their web site is on a new Links page in our sites member's area.
- Volunteer Awards. The NAGC wants to recognise the effort put in by its volunteers so has created a Volunteer Award Scheme. Nominations are invited from the membership for both Adults and Children. Please see the member's pages for more details.
- NAGC's 40th Birthday. Join in the celebration and take part in the competition. See the member's pages for more details.
- Stephen Tommis (NAGC Director) has been asked to write an article about parenting a gifted child to support a channel 4 TV program. Find a link to the article on the Members page.
- Chinese Culture Day: The Chinese Culture day went well with good feedback from all, although the ratings were probably lower than hoped for. We will be paying particular attention to how we can get more interaction between the children in future as this seems to be the general area of most concern across all the events. More details and pictures to be added to the website shortly.
- Brighton Science Fair: We attended the science fair today and enjoyed many of the events although it was very busy. Our favourite was the marble run!
- Member's area. All NAGC members should now have a password for access to the members area. If you are a member and do not know the password please let me know. The members area will contain all reference information, and write-ups of the events, as well as a children's own area – see below.

- Children's area: I am planning on setting up a children's area within the members section of the Website. The intention of this is to get the children involved. There is a lot of detail to work out yet but initially I'm thinking of asking for entries for good books, activities, places to visit, things to do. If possible I would also like to set up a discussion space (chat room?) although I am aware we will need to be careful about security and moderation of content. I would really like the children to be able to interact outside of the two hour activities. More to follow...
- Membership Folders – If you haven't already received them you should shortly get a new membership folder. Additional information packs will be sent out over the course of the year to add to these. We also have a central group folder for reference.