

THE DART SCOUT

www.dartfordscouts.org.uk

Issue 15 December 2014

WELCOME

I'm excited, excited because it is now December and we can start to get ready for Christmas and excited because we have lots of things happening in District and Scouting. Compass: I hope you will all have received news that the compass youth data upload for Kent will happen in January – you need to ensure your data is prepared and ready to go ASAP so you do not miss your upload window. Check last month's DartScout for information.

More Compass: We are still not allowed to update training and Permits on Compass, this means that we are still unable to award Wood Beads or complete training & permits until the bugs have been fixed.

DBS: District will be supplying a Computer with internet access at Scout House from the New Year for anybody who wants to arrange a DBS identity session to use.

New Programme and Badges: Yes there is a new programme, No Scouts have not rolled out the information about it yet, but what they have said is that the requirements and training information will be out in the New Year and that we have until September 2015 to move across. My advice is if you have new Young People in section, once you get the information on the new challenges, start using it. If you have Young People that are almost finished then let them finish on the old track. I hope that there will be a mapping document to help those who are midway through their CSA to move onto the new programme with ease.

Badge Shop: The Badge Shop will be able to start ordering the new styled badges from January, we will also continue to run down old badge stock until September. The District Badge Shop is on average 3p per badge cheaper than other shops.

Young Leaders: District has now approved a new Explorer Scout – Young Leader Unit. Phantom is headed up by Ed and Renee and will meet Monthly at Scout House or the 3rd's hall dependant on programme. Look out for more information.

Leigh Villiers
District Commissioner

BEAVER NEWS

Bronze Awards

Thank you to all those that attended the presentations on Sunday 23rd November.

Congratulations to all the Beavers that were presented with their Certificates.

Please don't forget to let me know if you need any Bronze Award Badge as I have plenty in stock, I can leave them in pigeon holes at Scout House or drop them in to you.

District Bear

He is still waiting for a name! I would like to name him before we break up for Christmas. So ask your Beavers for their suggestions and email me asap. Names will go into a hat and the first one pulled out will be the Bear's name. If you have any exciting activities coming up don't forget to let me know as he would like to join in - he is currently learning carols for when he goes Carol Singing with 5th Dartford Beavers on the 13th December.

Next Leaders Meeting should be in January. When I know dates I will let you know.

As this is the last newsletter before Christmas, I would like to thank all of you that have given me help and guidance since I took over this role in May and also for the hard work you put in with programme planning, also thank you to the Beavers for their continued enthusiasm with everything they do. That's what Scouting is all about.

If you have Colony Christmas parties coming up - have a great time. I hope you all have a Happy Christmas (don't eat too many mince pies or drink too much mulled wine), recharge your batteries and I look forward to another fun filled year with you all.

Jacqui Wilkinson
ADC Beavers

CUB NEWS

Swimming Gala

Thank you so much to everyone who supported the joint Cub and Scout swimming gala on Saturday. It was a great evening and the kids were fantastic. The top results were as follows:

1st – Voyager (69 points)

2nd – Seonee Pack (67 points)

3rd – Jungle Pack (49 points)

I would like to say a special thank you to Jane and Wendy for organising the scoring. Thanks also to Peter, Leigh and Kelvin, who had the unenviable job of placing the swimmers. Finally, thanks to Mick for organising the swimmers for each heat.

Cub Bear

The bear is currently working its way round the Cubs Packs in Dartford. Many thanks to Phillips pack who took him on a very soggy, but exciting, treasure hunt in Gravesend. If any pack would like to take the Cub on an adventure please let me know.

More importantly, the bear still has no name! Please send me the suggestions from your pack so that we may draw one at random.



Goodbye and Thank You!

This is my last section news as ADC Cubs as I will be stepping down from the role at Christmas, due to work commitments. I have really enjoyed being ADC and working alongside the District team and amazing Cub leaders. Thank you to everyone who has supported me over the last 18 months, it has been a real pleasure working with you all. I will now step back into my previous role of ACSL, so you won't be getting rid of me entirely.

I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and I wish you all a happy and healthy new year!

Andrea Head
ADC Cubs

SCOUT NEWS

November has been a busy month for the Scout Section. No less than 2 District competitions – the Quiz / Challenge night and the Swimming Gala - full details below. Wayne and I continue to visit troops to present Gold Awards. Well done to all the Scouts who are achieving the top award available to the section and thank you to all the leaders helping the young people to do so.

As we move into December I'd like to wish all Leaders, Scouts and parents a very Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for 2015. Wayne and I are working hard on next year's programme and we have attended the County Scout Section meeting to make our Scouts can benefit from the events organised by the County Team. As well as DartJam there is Active8 and many more exciting events coming up. Thanks to all who have made 2014 so successful for the Scout Section and in particular Wayne as District Scout Leader and Martin and Andy for their continued contributions to the Scout Support Team.

Quiz / Challenge Night – Thursday 20th November

On 20th November 17 Teams of between 6 and 8 Scouts took part in the District Scout Quiz / Challenge night, kindly organised and hosted by 5th Dartford with head quizmaster Tim. It was a noisy but really enjoyable night with the Scout tested on Christmas songs and carols, knots, coke tasting, music, films and much more. One of the most challenging rounds was the T quiz – Do you know what 5 letter word becomes shorter when you add 2 letters to the end ?! or why a woman who has two identical sons born within 5 minutes of each other are not twins?!

The competition was brilliantly organised and the scouts had a great time. Several troops entered 2 teams. 8th Dartford managed to come first and last with Galley Hill 2nd and 9th Dartford 3rd.

A massive thank you to Tim, Jason and everyone at 5th. I know how much effort is involved in organising this event. You did a great job and the Scouts really enjoyed it.

Swimming Gala – Saturday 29th November

On 29th November around 50 Scouts took part in the District Swimming Gala at Whiteoak Swimming Pool, Swanley. The standard was very high but more importantly everyone had a good time. It was great to see 11 troops from the district represented. Over the 2 hours of the gala, each scout had the opportunity to enter 4 individual races and those that qualified for semi finals and finals had considerably more. The individual events were freestyle, breast stroke, back stroke and a more fun event of pushing a ball - all individual events held over 25 metres. The relay was a 4 x 25m freestyle race with all 11 troops

entering a team with the smaller troops borrowing from the larger. There was just time at the end of the gala for a quick free swim. The individual winners for the three main stoke races and the relay are on the second tab of the attached excel spreadsheet. The winning troop was 1st Wilmington with 3rd Dartford in the runners up position and Sutton at Hone in 3rd. Well done to all the winners but more importantly well done to all those that took part. Special mention to a couple of the swimmers from Galleyhill who really showed some great determination in the races.

As always , these events need organisers. Firstly - a massive thank you to Andrea for booking the pool and sorting out all the arrangements with White Oak. On the night it was good to see a good number of leaders present. I hope I don't miss anyone out here but thanks to Wayne, Kim, Jessica, Martin, Des, Jason, Paul, Cavan, Rachael and Alex for starting, finishing and scoring the races and to all the other leaders that supported the event.

County Gold Awards Presentation

Don't forget the County Gold Awards on 6th December.

Gavin Jessup
ADC Scouts

ADULT TRAINING

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a safe and happy Christmas. We are moving in to an exciting time in scouting as we look forward to the launch of the new badges and programme in 2015.

My plans for the New Year include a meeting for the training advisors and a module 12 course early in the year. Watch this space. If any leaders are interested in joining the training advisors team then please contact me for a chat on what it involves. Contact me direct on training@dartfordscouts.org.uk

First Aid

British Red Cross First Aid Courses:

14th December - Sevenoaks

Please send me a training form requesting the date you require.

Safety

27th January 2015

Safety course this is part of ongoing learning it is running at St Mary's Church hall, Greenhithe. 7.30 -10 pm

Module 38

27th - 29th March. Sevenoaks.

As usual please contact me for any training queries.

Sue Martin
Local Training Manager

DARTJAM

Make sure that you get your numbers and deposits in for this amazing event that will take place at Skreens Park in May see the website for more information.

DartJam Management Team

CHIEF SCOUTS AWARDS

Beavers Bronze Awards

On Sunday Afternoon on 23rd November 43 Beaver Scouts from across the District were invited to attend a Presentation at St Marys Church, Greenhithe where the District Commissioner Leigh Villiers presented them with the Chief Scout Bronze Award certificate He congratulated the Beavers on obtaining the top award that can be gained as a Beaver Scout and hoped they would now aim to gaining the Silver Award in the Cub Scout section.



Cubs Silver Awards

On Wednesday 12th November 31 Cub Scouts from across the district were invited to attend a presentation at the Civic Centre, Dartford. The Worshipful the Mayor of Dartford Councillor Mr Avtar Sandhu MBE presented the Cub Scouts with their certificates. He commented on how proud Dartford were of the Scout Movement and the hard work put in by the Cub Scouts in obtaining this the top award they can achieve as a Cub Scout. Parents and the Cub Scouts were invited to take Tea, coffee, Squash and biscuits afterwards supplied by members of the District Scout Support members.



Peter McLean

S.A.S

We had a darts evening at our November meeting and our December meeting will be our usual Christmas soiree with food, drink and chat. Members provided the tea, coffee, squash and biscuits at both the Cub Silver Awards in the Council Chamber and at the Beaver Bronze Awards at Swanscombe Church last Sunday.

DASCO

Margaret hopes to start the monthly day walks in the New Year as David is making a good recovery after his heat attack and subsequent fitting of two stents. We would welcome new 'recruits' as it is a good opportunity to polish up map-reading skills and to get into the countryside for some fresh air.
Scout House.

Since September the number of visitors to Scout House to buy at the shop and also Daphne's sweets has really dropped off. All the profit from the shop goes into District funds and helps to keep capitation down. Please try to encourage your young people's parents to use the shop. It is open every Monday in term-time from 7 until 9pm. If something is not in stock it can always be ordered.

Ashley Hambrige

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations last months went to Peter McLean, getting his 40 years' service award and Lauren Burke from 3rd, getting her Young Leader Belt. Well done both!

