

THE DART SCOUT

www.dartfordscouts.org.uk

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WELCOME

Thank you for not skimming over this bit of DartScout this month!

We've had a busy time, all sections have held activities and lots of groups have held camps over the past month. As a district we've held the AGM which was well attended and where we were sorry to say thank you and goodbye to Sarah who had been chair for the past 3 years and to Angela who was standing in as our treasurer. I am however pleased to welcome Yvette, Terry and Joanne who have taken the roles of Chair, Treasurer and Secretary, I look forward to working with them over the coming year to help us grow Scouting in Dartford.

I'm also sorry to say that despite best efforts the County appointments committee have agreed my full role as DC, so you're stuck with me for the time being ☺ As there will not be a DartScout for August, let me just wish everyone who is camping over the summer, a super time and little rain.

Lastly, I have an easy DC challenge for you.... If you have managed to read this far without falling asleep, drop me an email and say hello!

Leigh Villiers
District Commissioner

BEAVER NEWS

WADE

Despite the weather forecast saying it's going to rain - we were very lucky. Beavers got to have a go at kayaking and pedaloos and then various activities on land (all involving water). I think the water fights were the biggest hit - especially with the leaders. Thank you to all the Beavers that turned up and a big thank you to the Leaders too. Pictures can be found on the district website.

Forthcoming Event

Bronze Award ceremony 20th July.

BSL meeting - Tuesday 9th September - 7.30 pm - Scout House.

Jacqui Wilkinson
ADC Beavers

CUB NEWS

Cyclo Park

During June, the Cubs had the opportunity to participate in one of two activity days at the Cyclo Park in Gravesend. This is the first time we have organised an event at the Cyclo Park and it proved to be a great success, with 120 Cubs taking part. The sessions included BMX coaching and mountain bike training. The Cubs learnt about some of the safety issues associated with biking as well as having the opportunity to train on the bikes.

We received a great deal of positive feedback from Cubs and leaders and we hope to run a similar event in the future. Finally, a massive 'thank you' to all the leaders, and assistant leaders, who supported and helped at the Cyclo Park days.



Date of Next Cub Leaders' Meeting

The next Cub leaders' meeting will take place on Monday 29th September at 8pm. We will meet at 8pm upstairs in Scout House. All leaders, assistant leaders and anyone involved with Cubs are very welcome.

I hope you all have a wonderful summer break and good luck to those of you who are off on camp. See you in September.

Andrea Head
ADC Cubs

SCOUT NEWS

It's been busy this month with the County Gold Award presentation, Tug of War and Cricket Competitions. We now take a break from District Competitions and events until after the Summer Holidays. I know most of you are off on Summer Camps - I hope they go well and the weather is kind to you. As well as your camps I hope leaders have a bit of time over the summer break to recharge their batteries ready for the autumn terms. I think it has been a good year so far for the Scout Section with many Gold Awards, excellent programmes in the troops and great attendance at the district competitions. Thanks to all the leaders that have supported the district events, particularly Andy, Martin and Wayne in the Scout Support Team.

Tug of War Competition

17 teams competed in the Tug of War competition at Stone Rec on 6th June. The event was supported by Stone Scouts with refreshments and Wayne, Kim and Martin running the competition. The Scouts appeared to enjoy the competition reaching an exciting conclusion. The top three teams were:

1st Place - 6th Dartford Warrior Troop 'A' Team
2nd Place - 8th Dartford 'A' Team
3rd Place - 5th Dartford Earley Troop

Cricket Competition

The cricket competition took place on 27th June at Hesketh Park. On 26th June the weather forecast for the 27th was not good but fortunately the weather forecast proved to be completely wrong with a fine evening greeting the 90 Scouts taking part. The 10 teams took part in four rounds of matches. By 9pm the competition was complete and trophies were awarded to the top three teams. Bean came in 3rd place and in an exciting final 5th Burne beat 6th Warrior Troop. I'd like to say a massive thank you to Dartford Cricket Club for hosting the event and to all the leaders who umpired and scored. Jack from 9th did a fantastic job with the tuck shop and thanks to Dave for running the bar keeping the parents refreshed during the competition. The club has agreed to host us again next year if we wish to repeat the competition.

Gavin Jessup
ADC Scouts

ADULT TRAINING

Keep an eye on the district website and Facebook for upcoming details.

First Aid

British Red Cross First Aid Courses:
17th August - Thanet
22nd November – Thanet
Please contact me for booking

Getting Started

Please find attached details of a getting started course hosted by Malling District on the 15th July. Contact me for more details and booking.

In the Planning

Skills day-June- What skills would you like us to offer?

Module 38-September-

Multi module day- November – which modules should we put on?

Sue Martin
Local Training Manager

APPOINTMENTS

The Appointments Committee met on Tuesday 24th June and approved the following new appointments:

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|-----------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Karen Baker | Assistant Cub Scout Leader | 3rd Dartford |
| Elizabeth (Liz) Frost | Assistant Explorer Scout Leader | Livingstone Explorer Unit |

and the following Change of Appointments:

Jacqueline Wilkinson
District Beaver Leader to Assistant District Commissioner (Beaver Scouts)

Andrew Ray
Group Sectional Assistant 1st Sutton-at-Hone to Cub Scout Leader (1st Wilmington).

Peter McLean
Appointments Secretary

WHO IS THE CHAIR?

Hello, my name is Yvette Knight and at the AGM your District Commissioner nominated me as the new Chairman for Dartford District Scout Council. I am both honoured and delighted to be asked to work within the Scout movement and see my role as providing the business arm to the District to support the valuable work you are doing with our young people.

I experienced the wonderful world of Scouting when I sent my son to Beavers at the 3rd Dartford about 6 years ago. He thoroughly enjoyed himself and continues to thrive as an individual in Scouts: learning many new activities but also those life skills that very often are not developed at school such as team spirit, caring for each other, and confidence building. Fairly soon after my son joined the colony the 3rd then opened another Beaver Colony and they were asking for helpers – they only needed 2 hours per week! So I signed-up to help. My first task was my name: they said I needed to be a British animal, so I asked the young Beavers for ideas: Bat, Skunk, Mole, Badger..... After a few weeks the Leaders decided on my name: Wren. I thought oh that is a cute little bird and as I am only 5 foot 1 thought it was quite appropriate – in fact it turns out that Wrens, are indeed small birds, but they have a loud voice!! Apparently that matched my profile exactly..... but I guess I will leave you to be the judge of that one!!

I have been an active member of the Group Executive for 2 years as a Parent representative, and enjoyed being able to support the Leaders, and we have been trying support the uniformed volunteers by making the maintenance of the building an Executive responsibility – it should not be an additional burden to the Leaders, who give up so much of their time to ensure that our young people in our organisation are fulfilled.

I only have a little experience of Scouts, but I do understand the world of volunteering: I was a volunteer for the British Red Cross for 20 years, I am a School Governor, Treasurer of the local football team, and volunteer at 3rd Dartford at the Group Executive, but I also volunteer at Cub and Beaver Camps..... So I look forward to meeting with you all, and would welcome your suggestions or thoughts on how you believe the Dartford District Scout Council can support your role within Scouting.

Yvette Knight
District Chairman

DASCO

Margaret is still organizing a monthly walk. Anyone interested please contact her for further details at margaret6166@aol.com This is an ideal way to improve map reading skills (no GPS for us!) and have a pleasant day in the country with a picnic lunch.

SAS

We spent an evening the other week tidying up the front of Scout House although there is more to be done. On the 14th we had a trip from Allington up to Yalding on the Medway with plenty of eats both on the way and at a picnic spot. A bit chilly at times but a very pleasant day out! On Wednesday 2nd July we will have our annual AGM and BBQ on the banks of the Darent.

Ashley Hambridge

DARTJAM 2015

As many of you are aware, the District Jamboree (DartJam) will be held next year at Skreens Park Activity Centre in Essex, Information packs which will include a poster, pricing and requests for help will be going out to GSL's over the next few days.

To start to get your young people in the mood, as with previous years we will be looking for a badge design for the camp, the design should include the words "DartJam '15)" and be designed to fit in a 75mm circle. Entries for the design should be in by the end of October and should include the group, section and young persons name and age.

Finally, we need a beaver leader (ABSL, BSL or a sectional assistant in beavers) to join the planning and management team, please contact me for information.

Wayne Tomkinson
Camp Chief

WORLD SCOUT JAMBOREE 2015

I'm pleased to be able to report that Dartford have managed to secure a 5th place for the 2015 World Jamboree. At the selection weekend last November, the selection panel identified who Dartford would send if an additional place could be secured. Mimi Kelly of Livingstone Explorers, formally a 1st Dartford Scout, has been awarded this additional place. Mimi has already met the other four attendees from Dartford and has several training weekends in the diary to prepare her for the Jamboree.

The team's fund-raising is going well but still need to raise thousands of pounds. If you can help in any way – host a fund-raising event or sponsorship they would love to hear from you. Look out for Jamboree badges and draw tickets on sale now!

Gavin Jessup

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER

From all of the district committees and teams we hope that you have a great summer and take part in lots of adventures. Send in your pictures to media@dartfordscouts.org.uk to show everyone else what you have been up to.

**DARTFORD
DISTRICT
SCOUTS**