

Bourne Again



Croydon District Cubs seen here at RAF Hendon in February this year.
(See Cub Section report for more details)

DC Report



I did not expect to ever have to wake up to this and yet on February 24th I did. I am sure you did not either. How do we explain this to our younger members? The world has changed and our future is, post covid 19, not clear. We have already started to think and action how we can help our Ukrainian fellow members and their families and communities. You may like to open the following link:

[WOSM statement on the situation in Ukraine | World Scouting](https://www.wosm.org.uk/news/2022/02/24/wosm-statement-on-the-situation-in-ukraine/)

My thanks to Chris Dean 7/12 Croydon for getting onto this almost immediately. It has crystalised for me the Croydon District Scout strap line

One District One Movement One World

Chairman's Report

Our Annual General Meeting this year will be held on Friday 17th June 2022 in the Church Hall of Our Lady of the Annunciation, Bingham Road, Addiscombe. All adult (and other eligible) members of Croydon Scouting are invited to join us. Full details will be circulated nearer the time.

District Premises Committee

I am pleased to be able to inform you that Bernie Farrell (former Deputy County Chair and a good friend of Croydon Scouting) has agreed to Chair the District Premises Committee. Initially the Committee will be working closely with the Bears Wood and Pinewood Committees. In the fullness of time the remit of the Committee will extend to supporting individual Groups and Units.

Risk Assessments

A reminder that risk assessments are required for all activities and events. This includes maintenance or working parties on Group headquarters etc. To aid Groups and Units the District Risk Assessment Policy can be found on the District website.

It should be noted that there is now a requirement to review (and where appropriate revise) risk assessments during an activity or event in order to take into account any changing conditions and/or circumstances.

Minibus Permits

A reminder that any Group/Unit owning or operating a minibus should have a section 19 permit. See link attached:

<https://www.scouts.org.uk/volunteers/running-your-section/administration/section-19-minibus-permits/>

Cont: Page2:

Chair's Report cont (2).

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is not only about keeping our Young People safe it's also about protecting our adult volunteers. Can I please ask all Groups/Units to review their policies (particularly in relation to communication and the use of social media) to ensure that they are not inadvertently placing adult volunteers in compromising situations.

Good Service Awards

Group Executive Committee Members and other adult supporters are eligible to be nominated for Good Service Awards where they have provided outstanding, distinguished or exceptional service to Scouting.

Full details of the awards process can be found on the Headquarters website. All nominations for awards should be submitted (on the correct forms) to Margaret Tyler (Deputy District Commissioner) who Chairs the District Awards Panel.

Adult Appointments

As a District we are very fortunate to have a very quick and efficient adult appointments process. However, there are often unnecessary and sometimes lengthy delays to this process when Groups and/or individuals fail to respond to requests for information etc from either the District Appointments Secretary (Jenny Robson) or the District Appointments Panel.

Public Liability

Unity (the Scout Association insurers) have recently published a useful guide to help Groups to understand what their responsibilities are and what they are and aren't covered for in respect of public liability.

Japanese Knotweed

With the growing season now upon us can I please remind Groups of the need to survey their grounds for the presence of knotweed. In the event that knotweed is found (or is already present) it is the responsibility of the Group to ensure that it is treated in accordance with the latest DEFRA guidelines.

And Finally

We estimate that over the past two years the various provisions (individual Groups etc) which make up Croydon Scouting have received somewhere in the region of £500,000 to £600,000 in government covid grants.

For many the grants have represented a lifeline to cover essential running costs etc as well as ensuring the long-term future of Scouting. This is especially true for Bears Wood and Pinewood where the combined lost income (due to covid) has been estimated somewhere between £50,000 and £60,000.

As always if you require any further information on any of the above (or for that matter anything else) please do not hesitate to contact me in the usual manner.

Dave Rixson

District Chair

Email: chair@croydonscouting.org.uk

Croydon District Working Together'

DC's Report cont (2).

Other News

Our Annual census figures were up 12% membership on 2020, but not quite back to pre pandemic levels. The number of Adults has improved slightly but is below where we should be in some key areas.

The Queens Platinum Jubilee Badge 2022 are available now and are being distributed to all sections via our sectional ADC's



To confirm the Jubilee badges are to be worn on the left chest above the World Membership badge. They can be worn until the end of 2022.

The following adult awards have been made recently:

Wood badge

Alexander Ashley, Caroline Legg, Christopher Biggart, Elizabeth Peters, Ellen Tilbury, Justine Rimmell, Kay Maltman and Sazeda Alam

Long Service Decorations

Justine Rimmell, Sarah Middlemiss, Anthony Williams, Brian Young, Elizabeth Rodgers, Neil Rodgers, Andrew Robson, Una Greenwood, Derrek Garrod and Uncle Dave Rixson.

My sincerest thanks to all adult award recipients above and indeed to everyone who gives up their time and volunteers with Croydon Scouting. Your contribution are highly valued and very much appreciated and without your continued support we could not provide the much envied and quality of Scouting that happens in Croydon.

Greg Cook - DC Croydon

Email: dc@croydonscouting.org.uk

Beaver Report



As I write this its half way through March and Groups are probably now thinking ahead to the summer term when it should be lighter in the evenings and warmer. I have already been to a couple of Groups who have had a Night Away so just a quick reminder one should be offered each year and a NAN form completed two weeks before this takes place. Many Leaders may think about holding one in their own hall but we have accommodation at the Scout Centres in the District or you may want to consider using another Groups premises with their permission of course to make it more interesting for your Group. Just ensure everything is removed and tidied up afterwards.



The District Beaver team still consists of just me and I would like to identify an additional two or three people to come on the team. If you fancy giving up a bit of extra time to help then please let me know.

I am still getting out and seeing other Groups when I can although its more often when they have a sleepover although I will try and call in when time permits. That said, if any Leaders have any questions I am only a phone call or email away.

I still only receive a small fraction of the programmes that should be sent so please remember to email me a copy of your programmes once you have them for that term.



Finally when this comes out it will be around Easter so enjoy your Easter break.

Andrew Davies
ADC Beavers
Email: beavers@croydonscouting.org.uk

**One District
One Movement
Working Together
CROYDON SCOUTING
#skillsforlife #goodforyou**

Cub Report

Since the last report, the Cubs have been getting out and about and doing what they do best – putting the OUT in Scouting.



Packs have been meeting on a regular basis and have done some amazing activities including a trip to the Tate Modern Museum, the Kenley Observatory and Addington Court Golf Course to have a go at the Driving Range to name but a few.

Our next major Event is a Cub Fun Day at Frylands Wood Campsite on Saturday 2nd April. We are expecting around 250 Cubs to attend for this fun filled activity day and a full report of how the day went will be in the next July edition of this newsletter.

Now the weather is getting warmer, a lot of the Packs will be making the most of it by doing Hikes, Naturalist Badge and of course planning and going Camping.

Air Activities Day

On Saturday 5th February the District held an Air Activities Badge Day at RAF Hendon. 164 Cubs and 60 Leaders and Adults descended on RAF Hendon to do the Air Activities Badge - Stages 1 & 2.



The day started by making their way to Morden Tube Station or making their own way to RAF Hendon. On arrival at RAF Hendon, Mandy gave a brief rundown of how the day would run. Once the briefing had taken place everyone went their separate ways over the 6 Hangers taking in all aspects of various flying machines as well as how they were used in the Wars.

Lunch was staggered in a designated area with 3 - 4 packs meeting and gelling as well as talking about what they had seen.

The Cub Scout Law:

Cub Scouts always do their best
Think of others before themselves
And do a good turn every day.



RAF Hendon have worked closely with the Scout Association and have produced special Work Sheets that the Cubs follow around the Site and there are a few bits that need to be completed back at a Pack Meeting i.e., Hot Air Balloon out of paper. Before everyone made their way home - badges were given out under the Lancaster.



Amanda Giles
ADC Cubs

District Cub Leaders:
Peter Low, Genny Dunbar, Brian Young,
Marina French, Linda Ford.
Email: cubs@croydonscouting.org.uk

Scout Report

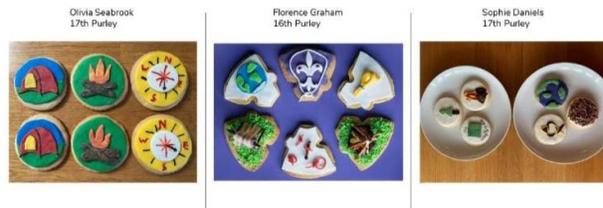
The Scout section has been really busy since the start of this year. Sadly, we had to cancel the Indoor Cooking Competition and our Leader's social due to Omicron being at its peak. However, it's been 'all go' since then.



In January the Jamboree Experience Day took place at Bears Wood. Whilst the programme for the day was set by County, it was left to districts to run their respective events. On the day we have around 65 eager older Scouts and younger Explorers who went round in teams tackling the 10 incident bases. Those lucky enough to be picked to go to the Jamboree in S. Korea were informed a few weeks later. Our thanks to all the leaders that helped with this event.



In February there was the Great Biscuit Bake Off - another county run event. Scouts had to bake 7 biscuits, decorate 6 to the theme of World Scouting, leaving one undecorated. We had 28 entries from Croydon. Our top 3 entries went through to the County Final. They were Sophie Daniels (17th Purley); Olivia Seabrook (17th Purley) and Florence Graham (16th Purley). We were all very proud when Florence came second in the County Final.



In February 60 scouts took part in our Emergency Aid Stage 3 Badge Course at Pinewood. The day was split into morning and afternoon sessions. Both sessions involved 3 hours with Paul Green, County First Aid Trainer, taking them through the theory in his usual highly engaging style. This was followed up by putting their newfound knowledge into practice on 6 incident bases. The Casualty Union provided some very realistic casualty simulation and acting.

11 teams from our District took part in the County Night Exercise on 12th March. This was a 6-mile incident hike in the Surrey Hills starting and finishing at Bentley Copse. We are very proud to report that the 7th Purley B Team were joint winners. Well done to them and all the teams that took part in this challenging event.



Our Cub and Scout Link Day on 19 March turned out to be 2 days due to large numbers. With fine weather joint teams of cubs and scouts tried their hand at lots of new skills. It was the Scout section showcasing what we have to offer the older cubs when they come up into the troop. Thanks to all the leaders who helped on the bases.



Claire Shadbolt and Richard Carrau
Joint ADC Scouts
Email: scouts@croydonscouting.org.uk

Next Events: Master at arms competition 23rd April;
Expedition Challenge 7/8 May, Checkpoint Challenge 22nd May

Croydon Scouting Mobile Climbing Wall Summer Sessions 2022

CROYDON SCOUTING MOBILE CLIMBING WALL

Do your young people want to go climbing?

We are offering 10 evening sessions for Beavers, Cubs, Scouts or Explorers during the Summer Term 2022 @ Pinewood Scout Training Centre.

Fri 29 April, Thu 5, Wed 11, Tues 17, Mon 23 May

Fri 27 May, Thu 30 Jun, Wed 6, Tues 12, Mon 18 July

Each session is bookable on a 1st come - 1st served basis.

All sessions are weather (& instructor) dependent.

Timings are negotiable to suit with your section meeting times and to fit in with sunset times and other groups.

Beavers normally run from 17:00 in 30 minute sessions of 8

Cubs normally from 18:00/18:30 in 45 minute sessions of 8

Scouts/Explorers from 19:30/20:00 until sunset

Background activity will need to be run by own leaders

Costs: Minimum Hire – 1 Hour - £50 then every extra 30 mins - £25

To book or for further details contact Martin Greenwood

climbingwall@croydonscouting.org.uk

or 07803296887

EXPLORERS

Explorer Report

The year started slowly as we were in the middle of the Omicron wave needing changes in the way we met. But as we approached census at the end of Jan numbers showed we were back at Pre-Pandemic numbers, spread across the 5 existing units. With all units providing a full and exciting weekly programme.



Pictured above - Kenley Explorers getting involved in some old school swordplay:-

Generally we have also been blessed with new leaders joining 4 of the 5 units. Welcome Sandra Kendrick (Seahorses), Mike Tracey (Croham Valley), Carl Bradbury-Proudlove (Crystal Palace) and Jason Hughes (Purley Cross). Additionally, we have a formed links to Delta ESU who are in Lewisham District but meeting at the Endeavour in Croydon so forming links with the Explorer age scouts in the north of the District.

Much of the focus for the start of the year has been on DofE with training for the Bronze, Silver and Gold expeditions in advanced stages. Crystal Palace and Kenley have 5 of the 14 Bronze and Silver teams undertaking practice expeditions with the County DofE SASU early April.

The County team have had Gold Training on Exmoor in March and 3 teams will be undertaking their Gold Practice expeditions in Snowdonia over Easter.

Kenley has planned their summer expedition to Wiltz in Luxembourg with 21 ES signing up very quickly. The event was opened to all Units and YLs in Croydon. With Croham Valley and Delta joining swelling the numbers to 38 and one YL has also joining up. *We have 6 leaders from all 3 units joining us but would be happy to hear from any other leader who would like an international camp experience prior to running their own. We will be staying on the same dates and at the same scout camp as the join GLSW/Surrey Explorer belt trip so the Explorers will be getting a taste the process hopefully encouraging more from Croydon to take part in the future years.*

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Explorers (cont 2)

YL Training has been held each month with great attendance, we have many YLs who have completed all their training modules and are now working on their Missions. If you are a Leader with a YL in your section please encourage them to complete their missions, so hopefully I will be presenting a few YL belt buckles.

Finally, Croydon have 5 teams entered in Day Flare this weekend, by far the biggest representation of any district as there are only 7 teams in total. I look forward to reporting a winning team from Croydon!

Please contact me at desc@croydonscouting.org.uk if you have any interest in doing Explorer Belt or DofE gold expeditions.

Richard Goad
District Explorer Commissioner
Email: desc@croydonscouting.org.uk

"The open-air is the real objective of Scouting and is the key to its success."

Baden Powell

network

Network Report

We are looking forward to getting back to meetings on a monthly basis with a variety of social activities already planned over the coming months to allow everyone to reconnect properly.

We also have plans in the summer to make use of the longer evenings and fit in some outdoor activities and we are very much hoping to be able to do our annual camp at Gilwell Reunion in September.

Cari-ann Bailey
Network Commissioner
Email: croydon.network@blueyonder.co.uk

District Safety Report

Attention Group Chair and Group Scout Leader

In 2009 we started our service of visiting all the meeting places used by Groups (both owned by the Groups or owned by others) to carry out a safety audit and report on the legal obligations required by Health and Safety Legislation. Our report gave a list of the improvements required and recommended other actions. We also recommended the appointment of a Group Safety Officer not engaged in weekly meetings. Every group was visited and received a report.

Please revisit your copy of this report and check you have carried out the actions and recommendations. If you do not have a copy of the report, please contact us below and we will provide you with a copy.

Please email: chair@croydonscouting.org.uk

Specialist in the health & safety field are still available to visit and update the recommendations (however this is only carried out by invitation only). For your information the District website contains a safety section where you will find information and documents, we recommend for use by all Groups.

Note:- Please see below a table of downloadable files available to support you and your Group / Unit.

Youth Commissioner Report

The Youth Commissioner team would love to be invited to pop to sectional meetings to see how everyone is getting on and what sort of activities the different sections are running, as well as to take the opportunity to promote the new YouShape award launched in the past few months.



Beavers

Cubs

Scouts

Explorers

We are also looking to expand and grow the team with more Deputy Youth Commissioners, any Leaders aged between 18 and 25, or Explorer Scouts nearing 18 feel free to get in touch and have a chat with us!

Croydon District Youth Commissioner Team

Email: yc@croydonscouting.org.uk

**Children make up 20%
of the population
and are 100% of our
future**

Safety resources are all downloadable from the District Website

www.croydonscouting.org.uk

File reference

Group Health & Safety Policy	1
Group Safety Logbook	2
Group Safety Officer Duties	3
Group_Fire_Risk_Assessment.doc	4
Duty of Care Summary	5
User Training Notes and Welcome Pack	6
Risk Assessment for Group Maintenance Activities	7
Storage of LPG	8
First Aid notice board sign	9
Asbestos in your home	10
Disabled Discrimination Act requirements	11
Electrical and Gas Installations – The Regulation requirements	12
Group Premises Audit Check List	13
Health and Safety Law for Your Scout Premises- What you should know	14
HSE Publication indg236 Electrical Inspections	15

Adult Training Report

It has been a relatively quiet few months since Christmas, but things are getting a lot busier from March onwards with a large number of courses taking place including core skills and GSL/Commissioner training both being run for the first time since 2019.

(i). Mandatory Ongoing Learning Training

As you all know there has been a HQ clampdown on out-of-date safety and safeguarding training, GDPR, plus the modules Sectional Assistants and Exec members need to do.

With immediate effect if this training is not kept up to date and expires leaders will be suspended from all Scouting activities until the training has been completed. All adults will get emails from HQ when a module is due, or due for renewal, so please ensure you read them and act accordingly, this will assist everyone.

(ii). Woodbadge Training Courses 2022

The diary for 2022 is in this newsletter, there have been a few courses since Christmas but attendance from Croydon has been very low. Please look at the diary and book on the courses you need.

As with MOGL the timescale for completing wood badges (3 years) is being strictly kept to and again leaders could be suspended for non-compliance.

Suspending leaders will always be a last resort and the training advisors and myself have been emailing reminding people – if you get an email from us, please come back to us so we can discuss things with you and work out a plan to complete the training.

(iii). First Aid

There are further courses over the next few months being planned, these will be advertised via GSLs.

If your FA expires in a few months or so you may want to get booked on a course sooner rather than later in case none are available.

(iv). Getting Started – Full Appointments

Congratulations to the 10 new leaders who have completed the getting started process, since December and have full appointments (a full list is in this newsletter). There are a further 21 who are still going through the process at various stages, hopefully, all those will become full appointments early in the new year.

(v). Wood badges

There have been no completed their wood badges since December. With all the courses being run, and the work in validating being currently undertaken, I am sure there will be a lot more completed in the next few months.

As usual if anyone has any queries regarding training, please either contact me or your training advisor directly.

Jon Slade

(District Training Manager/ADC Adult Support)

Tel No: 020 8680 2258

Email: jonslade@blueyonder.co.uk

Training Courses for 2022

A copy of the training calendar is downloadable from the District Website. Please see the link below.

<https://www.croydonscouting.org.uk/leaders/training>

Continuing our series of famous quotes and phrases:-

“Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other.”

– **John F. Kennedy**

Bears Wood Camp Site

As the weather generally takes a turn for the better and spring is here our attention turns to the outside maintenance of the site. The bare structures of the trees start to come into leaf and the grass inevitably starts to grow, the site starts to look a picture again and we all know why we love this place so much.



It also follows that many of you also love this place too, as we have a great number of bookings both for weekend camps/sleepovers, campfire evenings, activity days and evenings, DoE overnights and district events. We thank all of you who have booked the site, which shows how right it was to take on the running of it, and encourage those who haven't to consider doing so when looking for and planning an activity or a camp.

Our new website went live at the beginning of the year, albeit still a work in progress so bear with us, and can be found by going into the district website and following the campsites link. It gives you an overview, the indoor facilities, booking enquiries, bookings calendar, maps, welcome pack, RA's etc. Work is ongoing to add camping facilities information and the like too.

As is the norm in Scouting, the site is run by a team of volunteers who give so freely of their time and make it all possible and I must thank all of those involved for all their hard work, especially over the past month when so many have stepped up in my absence to make sure everything has run so smoothly.

If you are planning a residential experience in 2022, please consider using your District site by contacting me at bearswood@croydonscouting.org.uk or contact our booking secretary, Una, at bookings@bearswoodcampsite.org.uk

Martin Greenwood
Chair of Bears Wood

Email: bearswood@croydonscouting.org.uk

**“By working together, pooling our resources
and building on our strengths,
we can accomplish great things.”**

Ronald Regan (United States President 1981 – 1989)

Pinewood Scout Centre & Water Activities

Not too much to report really other than we are busy with lots of bookings both Scouting and non Scouting.

Meike Weiser our booking secretary has now moved to Cornwall and we are looking for a new booking secretary.

From May we will be offering stand up paddleboarding at Pinewood, via Jim Clements SL with 1st Crystal Palace Scout Group. Once open we will publish contact details.

Scout Groups with their own permitted instructors can book the archery, shooting and tomahawk throwing ranges via the Pinewood email address.

All booking enquiries please email pinewoodscoutcentre@outlook.com

Activity questions / enquiries please email gopinewood@gmail.com

George Campbell
Chair – Pinewood Committee

Activities

Peak, the GLSW /Surrey mountain training team.

If you want to train to take your young people into the hills Peak SASU can train and assess you. We run Mountain skills weekends at the County base in Bethesda. Please make contact for further information

Richard Goad
Explorer Scout Commissioner
Email: desc@croydonscouting.org.uk



Compass

Your records are your responsibility

The Scout Associations adult record system, Compass, contains data about each member. It has personal data, and data about your roles and training in Scouting. Much of the personal data you can change, and all of the data you can challenge if you think it is wrong. With the best will in the world, errors do creep in - and for much of the information only you will recognise the errors.

On the district web site, at <http://croydonscouting.org.uk/compass/>, you can find "Every User's Guide to Compass". Please use it to guide you through everything you may need to know to find and check your own data, and to get it corrected.

There is a second document designed for GSLs and Group Administrators who need to understand and edit other people's records. Arrangements will be made for those who are not IT-enabled. If anything is not clear please let me know.

Tony Crackett

Email: tony.crackett@ntlworld.com

Community Impact

Whilst we all learn to live with Covid and the necessary changes in our lives and activities, Scouting has re-opened and I would perhaps remind you again that Scouting is a highly regarded organisation essential to the future success and development of young people in our communities. We are the primary youth organisation and there will be many hundreds of young people now wanting to join something that is exciting and appealing. In your local communities we are already recognised and respected as providing essential lifeskills to young people – **Lets make SCOUTING their first choice.**

As the Scout Motto say's Be Prepared ! and below are five useful points that we should consider in everything we do.

1. Up your visibility

Any opportunity to raise your profile and visibility should be taken. Despite the cold and wet evenings that are now upon us, if you are organising outdoor face to face Scouting, please ensure that you all wear scarves, branded hoodies or the like. Perhaps you can take Group flags or banners to be displayed even if only for a short while. All of these measures will help to create greater presence.

2. Seek out cross-functional opportunities

When times are better (and they will be better) , try to identify opportunities with other organisations, or working with specialists and publicise these initiatives on your Group Facebook or Group Websites. Also try to promote this using the various local media sources, Local Neighbourhood and or Resident Associations as they all have Facebook Groups or magazines

3. Promote yourself

Post a regular advert on these sites or magazines to promote your Group. Explain what you do and how you can help young people in your community. Tell of your contribution to the community and of the accomplishments of your members e.g. (Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards etc). Ensure your Group is registered on Google Business and sites like this.

4. Seek out advocates

Do you know who your local Councillor or MP is? When we reopen and get back to some kind of normality, invite them down to a Colony, Pack or Troop evening and engage with your young people to speak about their community, their concerns or worries ? Build up a relationship with these local people as quite often they hear about funding or opportunities that might help the Group in the long run.

5. Ensure you are correctly branded

Ensure that your Group HQ / meeting place is correctly branded and has an encouraging and welcoming sign outside. A contact number for new enquiries is always a good idea. Update Group leaflets, and see if your local supermarket, newsagents or other community stores will allow a poster in the window or leaflets inside the store.

As always, your thoughts or comments would be welcomed.

Steve French

Chair – Croydon PR Team

Email: pr@croydonscouting.org.uk

Mobile Climbing Wall

The MCW has arisen out of it's long sleep after 2 years of hibernation!!!!

At last we can go climbing again. The wall has been up to Yorkshire for its annual service and certification and passed with flying colours, so we are good to go!

For those who so kindly help instruct on the wall, I will be again calling on your support and will be sending out a calendar of "events" for you to hopefully sign up to.

Understandably, there are fewer "public" events than previously, as everyone still gets back into the swing of things post-Covid.

We are, however, still hoping to put on the usual evening sessions in the summer at Pinewood. These will be run on the same basis as before, as outlined below.

Martin Greenwood

Manager (MCW SASU)

Email: climbingwall@croydonscouting.org



District Chaplain



As we approach the Easter period we still face all the complications of Covid19 in our lives which will impact many of us as we continue to try and move on. As your District Chaplain I am here to provide pastoral, spiritual and if you wish religious care to all members of Croydon Scouting on a confidential basis and I do welcome any of you contacting me directly for support.

I would also remind our Leaders that I am also available to attend any of your meeting and AGM's if you would like me to come along and just be there, or to provide some form of Chaplaincy input. Please do contact me.

To quote a famous phrase: "The great gift of Easter is hope – Christian hope which makes us have that confidence in God, in his ultimate triumph, and in his goodness and love, which nothing can shake." – **Basil C. Hume**

Revd. Andy Dovey

District Chaplain

Email: andy.dovey@me.com

Mobile: 07527 818816

Urgently Wanted

Young people (or old) but calling all aspiring artists, designers or simply those with a passion or flare and who want to be involved in a new challenge. We urgently need help and support with maintaining and updating the District website, drive the District social media platforms forward, and the quarterly editing and publication of this newsletter. Please contact us to discuss: Email: pr@croydonscouting.org.uk

Thank you

Special Occasions – Royal Venues

On Saturday 5th February 2022 after nearly two years of National Lockdowns and zoom Scouting the County held an Awards Dinner for nearly 50 members from around the County, this included some youth members, uniformed adults and non uniformed members.

Supported by their families and friends to receive various Scout awards ranging from The Chief Scouts Personal Award, Silver Wolf, Bar to Silver Acorn, Silver Acorn, Bar to Award for Merit, Award for Merit, and Chief Scout Commendations. The County Commissioner said it was great to be back together face to face at a Scout occasion.



Congratulations to several members from Croydon District who also attended this special event and received awards.



Special Activities - Southern 50

The annual Southern 50 is a prestigious challenge hike, one of the longest running events of its type in Scouting. A navigation event in **the Chiltern Hills** every year since 1980, through the counties of Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Hertfordshire and Oxfordshire, organised by Greater London North Scout County.

Within the overall event there are three different challenge hikes the 50 mile, the 50km and a 30km. There are strict rules and age restrictions for participation in these events.

In previous years we have had several teams competing from Croydon, but the event was held last weekend seeing a team from 7th Purley taking 3rd place in the 30km hike. Getting this into perspective 3rd place out of a potential 29 teams taking part is a great achievement and testimony to the Leadership at 7th Purley who support and prepare the young people to undertake such a epic challenge.

Another example of Croydon Scouting and indeed the 7th Purley putting the OUT back into [Croydon Scouting](#).

BRAVO to the 7th Purley team members on this fantastic achievement.

<http://southern50.org/>

Special Activities – Scuba Diving (7/12th Croydon / Croham Valley ESU)



~Croydon Scouting providing skills for life~

Special Report – 16th Purley (Beavers)

I have run the 16th Purley Beavers (7th Sanderstead) for just over 2 years now and wanted them to think about our community more. We have already done litter picks, historical videos on the area and given to Purley food bank.

This time, with Valentines Day approaching and some elderly having nobody as next of kin while in nursing homes the Colony thought about how lonely & isolated this can make you feel. The Beavers got to work creating and crafting Valentines Day cards for the residents of Tupwood Gate Nursing Home in Caterham. We also gave 3 bouquets of flowers to enjoy (chocolates wasn't an option as many of them have swallowing issues). The bouquets were split up so each resident there had a few flowers each to put in their rooms along with one handmade card.

Inside a message simply said "Happy Valentines Day. From all the 16th Purley Beavers xxx".

I delivered them personally to the Nursing home on the Friday ready for the special day. A few days later we received a lovely reply from the staff at the Nursing Home that said:-



'We received 3 beautiful bouquets of flowers and 19 valentines day cards from the beaver group today...my heart nearly broke! We will give these to the residents on valentines day, some of whom never have visitors or gifts!!!

A huge thank you to the Beavers of 16th Purley Scouts, the residents at Tupwood Gate Nursing Home absolutely loved them.'

Im so glad it brought a little joy to them and made them feel special. I'm also very proud of the Beavers for being wonderful examples of what true Scouting is all about - Kind, Helpful and to love our world.



Gemma Webb (BSL)
16th Purley Beaver Colony

Special Report – 2nd S & A Scout Group



On Sat 26th February on a crisp but dry morning the Cubs and Scouts from the 2nd Selsdon and Addington met to complete some community action by collecting rubbish and litter from local woodland and nearby pavements.

We were suitably supplied with litter pickers, rubbish sacks, sack holders and protective gloves through Croydon Council community teams, who support these activities and collect the rubbish afterwards.

Two hours later we had retrieved all manner of household items from the woodland and collected 25 sacks of litter. It was pleasing to hear the local community thank those attending as they walked past.

If your group is interested in a similar activity you can get the aforementioned support by emailing Tracey Bellamy at champions@croydon.gov.uk

Paul Burns (GSL)
2nd S & A Scout Group

Special Report (Written by 17th Purley Scouts)

Coulsdon Coppice

On Saturday, 12 of February, Daisy, Olivia, Patrick and I helped plant saplings at Coulsdon Coppice. Once the saplings had been planted, our job was to collect water so that the saplings could grow into a hedge to help home wildlife. We had to go knocking on doors to collect water, we used buckets and watering cans to transport it. After we finished watering the newly planted saplings, we were ready to leave but then noticed how dirty the area was. So we decided to pick up rubbish and plastic; plastic will never disintegrate and could possibly hurt the ecosystem. We finally felt like we had helped our local area for this month and couldn't wait for the next!

Written by Daisy and Lily.

To start with, it was a lot of fun that morning. We packed lots of gardening tools such as forks, spades and a pickaxe. We rushed to our location to give as much help to the community as possible. We joined the people who regularly do it including Pete and some of the scout leaders. It was different this year, instead of clearing brambles we planted some saplings. First we dug trench like holes to the according size. We



had to dig out a few large stones and found a few pieces of junk. Whilst the first of the saplings were being planted we found a huge drain at the bottom of the hill, so we had to go off course slightly. When most of the saplings were planted we pushed in canes next to each one. When that was done we had to put a protector on each one with the canes inside. It was a bit of a struggle at first but after a few were done we got the hang of it. We put the protectors on so that the saplings didn't fall over whilst growing. Finally, when the job was done we had to water them. After a few saplings were watered we ran out of water so we had to go to a helpers house to get some more. Afterwards, we picked up some of the rubbish that was lying around to help the environment.

Written by Patrick

This year was different. Instead of clearing brambles we planted saplings instead. All together between the scouts and the cubs there were 4 scouts and cubs. We dug holes in the ground waiting for a clear opening but instead of soft soil there were bricks and stones and all kinds of rubbish hidden underneath the soil. Some of the helpers had already taken care of the plants and were ready to start planting but unfortunately there were a few more holes to dig. When we eventually got to the last hole there was something underneath the soil which was blocking our way. It felt big, hard and unbreakable. As we started to dig we found a drain approximately 89cm long. Then when we went onto the planting we had several canes and plastic covers. The leaders explained how the plants had adapted to the materials. The plastic covers were to keep the plants safe from any predators or bad weather conditions such as storms or heavy rain. The canes were used for aligning the plants so it would grow in the right direction. Once we had finished the job we had to water them of course to help the plant grow and also we had no clue when the rain would come. We had several buckets of water to spare so instead of wasting the water we divided the water equally so every plant would have the same amount of water. Finally we collected all the rubbish that had been left on the ground, we came across several unusual things but they had to be cleared up. The leaders and us were happy with the job. I and several others had never had an experience like this before. We had hoped that there would have been more people there but we finished the job eventually. We learned about more environmentally friendly things to help the community.

So this is why we should encourage more young people and adults to come along and do these fun and environmentally friendly things!!!

Written by Olivia

District Emergency Aid Stage 3 Day

First Aid Course

I attended the First Aid Course for Scouts at Pinewood Scout centre in Shirley, Croydon. I really enjoyed it because I learnt a lot of useful skills, I met a lot of new people and I feel that I achieved something which will not just help at scouts but will also help at home and through my life.

Some of the new things we learnt were what to do to help people who are having trouble with their breathing by having an asthma attack, if they have had an accident and have a head injury, hypothermia from getting too cold, overheating from getting too hot, if someone is in shock, and with all this we did role plays which really helped understand better.

I think the course is very good and everyone should learn what I did because you never know what may happen to people around you.

Written by Rebecca Timmins

It was quite a fun experience, going into it I was really nervous but as time went on I settled in and started having fun, and I really feel like I learnt a lot and had fun at the same time. My favourite bit was probably the scenarios because I got to put my new learnt skills to the test and I think not one of the actors died, so that's good and I really appreciate the opportunity to do something like that

Written by Adam



Special Report - The 19th Purley Scout Group have been collecting Easter Eggs over the last few weeks for all those families the Purley Food Hub Supports - BRAVO



~Croydon Scouting bringing communities together~

**One District
One Movement
One World
#skillsforlife**



**Croydon Scouting working together and
putting the 'OUT' back into Scouting**

#skillsforlife #goodforyou

**Croydon Scouting helping young people to achieve their dreams
#croydonscouting #highachievers #skillsforlife**

District PR Committee



District Website:

www.croydonscouting.org.uk

County Website:

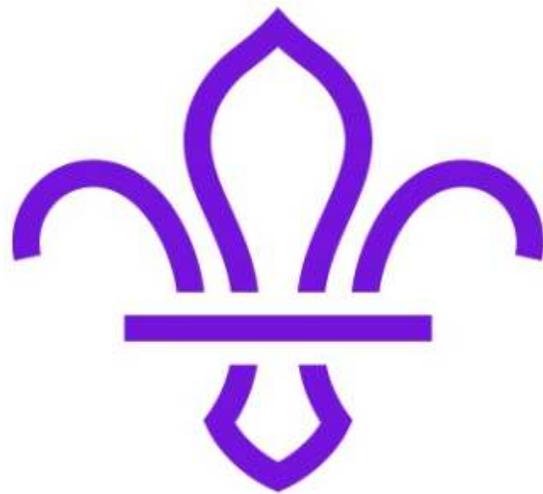
www.glsWSCOUTS.org.uk

Headquarters Website:

www.scouts.org.uk

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