



Scouts
Croydon District

Annual Report and Accounts
Croydon District Scout Council
to 31st December 2018

BEAVERS

cubs

SCOUTS

EXPLORERS

network

#YouShape



Scouts 
Active Support



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Provided as separate documents:-

- **Trustees Annual Report and Accounts (Separate booklet)**
- **Copy of the District Constitution (for approval)**
- **Copy of the District Youth Strategy (for information)**

SCOUT GROUPS

1st COULSDON SCOUT GROUP

Richmond Hall, Fourth Drive, Coulsdon, CR5 3BD
(Access from rear of Lion Green Road car park, CR5 2NL)

1st CROYDON (Addiscombe) SCOUT GROUP

Beverley Hall, Grant Road, Croydon, CR0 6PJ
St Matthew's Church Hall, Chichester Road, Croydon, CR0 5NQ

6th CROYDON SCOUT GROUP

11-13 Bynes Road, South Croydon, CR2 0PY

7th/12th CROYDON SCOUT GROUP

Rear of 35 Birdhurst Rise, South Croydon, CR2 7EJ

10th CROYDON SCOUT GROUP

113-115 St James's Road, Croydon, CR0 2UW

16th CROYDON SCOUT GROUP

Large Church Hall, Croydon Minster, Church Street, Croydon, CR0 1RN

23rd CROYDON (1st South Norwood) SCOUT GROUP

The Den, 30 Love Lane, South Norwood, SE25 4NG

26th CROYDON (St Andrew's) SCOUT GROUP

St Andrew's Church Hall, Quadrant Rd, Thornton Heath, CR7 7NG
St James the Great School, Windsor Rd, Thornton Heath, CR7 8HJ

27th CROYDON (St Mildreds) SCOUT GROUP

St Mildred's Hall, Bingham Road, Croydon, CR0 7EB

28th CROYDON (Our Lady of the Annunciation) SCOUT GROUP

Rear of 20-22 Craven Road, Croydon, CR0 7JH

29th CROYDON (St John's) SCOUT GROUP

Behind Shirley Parish Hall, 81 Wickham Road, Croydon, CR0 8TB

31st CROYDON (2nd Shirley, St George's) SCOUT GROUP

Rear of St George's Church Hall, Elstan Way, Croydon, CR0 7PR

39th CROYDON SCOUT GROUP

The Quest, 105-107 Beulah Road, Thornton Heath, CR7 8JG

44th CROYDON (Air Scouts) SCOUT GROUP

Ad Astra, Hythe Road, Thornton Heath, CR7 8QQ

61st CROYDON (St Oswald's) SCOUT GROUP

The New Enterprise, Biggin Hill, Upper Norwood, SE19 3HT

63rd CROYDON (4th South Norwood) SCOUT GROUP

Rear of Holy Innocents Church, Selhurst Rd, South Norwood, SE25 6XX

67th CROYDON SCOUT GROUP

The Endeavour Halls, 273 Norbury Crescent, Norbury, SW16 4LF

1st CRYSTAL PALACE (2nd Croydon) SCOUT GROUP

The Den, 3 Rama Lane, Cintra Park, Upper Norwood, SE19 2LJ

1st PURLEY (Princess Christian's Own) SCOUT GROUP

53-55 Purley Park Road, Purley, CR8 2BW

7th PURLEY (All Saints, Kenley) SCOUT GROUP

All Saints Church Hall, Church Road, Kenley, CR8 5DU

8th PURLEY (St Mary's) SCOUT GROUP

Scout HQ, St Mary's Church, Purley Oaks Road, South Croydon, CR2 0NR (Entrance in Beech Avenue)

9th PURLEY (St John the Baptist) SCOUT GROUP

St John the Baptist Parish Centre, Dale Road, Purley, CR8 2EF

11th PURLEY (St James) SCOUT GROUP

Meetings at 19th Purley HQ: (q.v.)

16th PURLEY (7th Sanderstead, All Saints) SCOUT GROUP

Cranleigh Close, South Croydon, CR2 9LH

17th PURLEY (St John's, Old Coulsdon) SCOUT GROUP

Rear of St John's Church Hall, Marlpit Lane, Old Coulsdon, CR5 2HD (top of Marlpit Lane)

18th PURLEY (Sanderstead URC) Scout Group

Farm Fields, South Croydon, CR2 0HQ

19th PURLEY (Riddlesdown) SCOUT GROUP

Dunmail Drive, off Mitchley Hill, South Croydon, CR2 1EX (Access from bottom of Mitchley Hill, CR2 9HJ)

21st PURLEY (St Barnabas) SCOUT GROUP

St Barnabas Church, Higher Drive, Purley, CR8 2HR

25th PURLEY (St Mark's) SCOUT GROUP

Scout Hut, Rear of St Mark's Church Hall, Church Road, Purley, CR8 3QQ

29th PURLEY (Purley Baptist) SCOUT GROUP

Purley Baptist Church, Banstead Road, Purley, CR8 3EA

30th PURLEY MASJID SCOUT GROUP

Rear of Hillars Heath Road, Coulsdon, CR5 2JP
(path between numbers 28 & 29)

1st SELSDON & ADDINGTON SCOUT GROUP

Rear of St John's Hall, 7a Upper Selsdon Rd, South Croydon, CR2 8DD

2nd SELSDON & ADDINGTON SCOUT GROUP

Entrance between 89 & 91 Foxearth Rd, South Croydon, CR2 8EN

5th SELSDON & ADDINGTON SCOUT GROUP

Addington Methodist Church, Huntingfield, Addington, CR0 9BA

EXPLORER SCOUT UNITS

COULSDON EXPLORER SCOUT UNIT

Richmond Hall, Fourth Drive, Coulsdon, CR5 3BD
(Access from rear of Lion Green Road car park, CR5 2NL)

CROHAM VALLEY EXPLORER SCOUT UNIT

Rear of 35 Birdhurst Rise, South Croydon, CR2 7EJ

CRYSTAL PALACE EXPLORER SCOUT UNIT

The Den, 3 Rama Lane, Cintra Park, Upper Norwood, SE19 2LJ

KENLEY EXPLORER SCOUT UNIT

21st Purley HQBP Hut, St Barnabas Church, Higher Drive, Purley, CR8 2HR

PINEWOOD SEAHORSES EXPLORER SCOUT UNIT

Pinewood Scout Centre, between 157 & 159 Shirley Church Road, Croydon, CR0 5AJ

PURLEY CROSS EXPLORER SCOUT UNIT

Purley Baptist Church, Banstead Road, Purley, CR8 3EA

PURLEY OAKS EXPLORER SCOUT UNIT

Dunmail Drive, off Mitchley Hill, South Croydon, CR2 1EX (Access from bottom of Mitchley Hill, CR2 9HJ)

YOUNG LEADERS EXPLORER SCOUT UNIT

No regular meeting place

SCOUT NETWORK

CROYDON (ROMANS) SCOUT NETWORK

No regular meeting place

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF CROYDON DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL
HELD AT ST. PAUL'S URC - CROHAM PARK AVENUE SOUTH CROYDON
TUESDAY 11TH JUNE 2019 AT 7:30(PM) FOR 8:00(PM)**

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Introduction
2. Apologies for absence.
3. Confirm the minutes of the District Scout Council held on 8th May 2018
4. Presentation on Operation Overload Revisited.
5. Approve the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the District Executive for 2018.
6. Approve the District Commissioner's nomination of District Chair
7. Elect a District Secretary.
8. Elect a District Treasurer.
9. Approve the members of the Executive Committee nominated by the District Commissioner in consultation with the District Chair.
10. Elect the members of the Executive Committee proposed by the District Scout Council..
11. Approve the members to be co-opted to the Executive Committee.
12. Approve the District Vice Presidents nominated by District Executive.
13. Elect a representative to serve on the County Executive.
14. Appoint a Badge Secretary.
15. Appoint an Independent Examiner
16. District Constitution
17. District Commissioner
18. County Representative Chris Dean
19. Presentations
20. Close followed by light refreshments

CROYDON AND DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This meeting was held on Tuesday 8th May 2018 at St Pauls Church Hall Croham Park Avenue, South Croydon at 8.00p.m.

1 Dave Rixson District Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting especially:- Theresa Jeffrey County Commissioner; Neil Findlay Designate County Commissioner; Chris Dean – Deputy County Commissioner; Barbara Jones (Roger’s widow); Vice Presidents – Sara Bashford; Hallam Carter Pegg; Derrick East; Jean East; Les and Margaret Ling; Tony Rowland; John Seaton; John Taylor and his wife.

A moment of reflection was led by Steve French – District Commissioner.

2. Apologies for absence had been received from:-Vice Presidents –John Ashe; Lynn Hale; and from Croydon Members - Steve Storey; Alice Hands; Jane Janman; Pat Stannard; Liz O’Brien; Stuart Cheesman; Kevin Moynihan; Franchesca Taylor; Marina French.

3.The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 11th May 2017 had been read and agreed at the District Executive Committee meeting held on 26th June 2017 – accepted by the meeting and signed.

4. The Chair presented the District Executive Committee’s report for 2017. Copies were available to those present at the meeting and had been published on the District website. There were no questions from the floor. It was proposed by Les Ling that the report be accepted and seconded by Mandy Giles. Agreed by those present.

Matter Arising – Tony Crackett queried the collation of the District equipment and their whereabouts – this will be dealt this year and on the agenda for the next Executive.

The District Treasurer presented the audited accounts which have been included in the report. Hallam highlighted there was a small surplus this year. Climbing Wall is being written off by depreciation of £2,000 per year over 10 years. After that date it will be decided as to whether to buy another according to its use. “I have been District Treasurer for twenty years and with his colleague he had audited accounts over 40 years. I will remain as Assistant Treasurer for the next year.” There were no queries from the floor. It was proposed by Aidan Devaney that the accounts be accepted and seconded by John Taylor. Agreed by those present.

5. Steve French (District Commissioner) confirmed his nomination of Dave Rixson District Chair. Meeting agreed.

6. Dave Rixson proposed to elect Pam Grogan as District Secretary who was prepared to stand again. Meeting agreed.

7. Dave Rixson proposed to elect Saiqa Asghar as the new District Treasurer and welcomed her to the District. Meeting agreed.

helped Groups to identify their strengths and weaknesses and has certainly helped some Groups to focus on areas of development needed locally.

This process also gave us the opportunity to review the whole District team and also the effectiveness of the team in certain areas. It was quite clear that focus and attention needed to be re-calibrated in the team and during the summer months we confirmed some fundamental changes to the District Team, appointing 3 Youth Commissioners for Croydon, a team of 3 ADC's for Beavers, a new ADC for Scouts and several other important changes.

Towards the end of the year Croydon members attended the County Conference where all members present were able to discuss, agree priorities and provide feedback to the SA leading to the new strategy for Scouting beyond 2018.

As a District we have maintained relationships with the Council, our local Councillors and other uniformed organisations in Croydon through the YOU London Platform and this helps us to promote ourselves to the wider Borough and with our peers.

We have a wealth of experienced Leaders and regular helpers in Croydon and I offer my sincere thanks to each and every one no matter what your contribution is and of course we actively encourage collaborations between all Groups and Sections.

To finish I would like to thank all the members of the District Team (past and present) who have supported me and the District over the last 12 months and noting in particular Roger Jones a dear friend to many of us who sadly passed away in 2017. We are very pleased that Mrs Barbara Jones (Roger's wife) has joined us this evening. Thanks of course to our Active Support Team for catering for our needs at the AGM and Safeguarding sessions when asked. Sincere thanks to Tony Crackett for his support and proactivity with regards to compass and overseeing the DBS system.

Final thanks also to John Hallam, Pam, Dave and other members of the Executive and Sub Committees for everything you do for Croydon and of course to the County Team for the interest and support shown. Final thanks to Marina my wife and Linda Ford my minders and founder members of the Croydon DC fan club for supporting me in my role as DC.

16. Theresa Jeffrey - County Commissioner

It is so good to see such a large support for the AGM. You are doing a fantastic job in Croydon and may it continue. The District Commissioner designate is Greg Cook who was a past member of 17th Purley. No date is fixed for him to take over from Steve. He has been out of Scouting for 12 years. It was the right choice and he has a passion for Scouting.

It has been a tough year for District and County. We all have a part to play to challenge people's perception out into the Community. The Youth Commissioners know what the young people want and with this knowledge can assist the District with these requirements.

I would like to congratulate and present the Commissioners Award to Aiden Devaney and Jack Wensley for their support at the County Conference 2017.

Neil Findlay – County Commissioner designate. I have been DC at Kingston for 4 years and will be in office in June. Every District has its own set of problems. I look forward to working with you. During tea I will be circulating so please do speak to me.

Barbara Jones – I would like to thank the District from my family and myself for all the support you have given us during this sad time. We are currently working with Steve and the District Team discussing an appropriate way for Roger to be remembered in Croydon..

Roger did not know he had been awarded the Silver Wolf – Barbara and her grandson went to Windsor to represent him.

17. Presentations

The District Commissioner presented the following awards:-

Margaret Ling - 40 Year Service Award

Tania Danielson – 10 Year Service Award

Mandy Giles - Bar to Medal of Merit

Peter Pearce – Silver Acorn

Martin Greenwood – Silver Acorn and 20 Year Service Award

Derrick East – 60 Year Service Award

Chippy Wood – 70 Year Service Award

John Taylor a bottle and card with voucher – Jean flowers

Hallam Carter a bottle and card with voucher – flowers sent to Margaret Carter Pegg

Flowers were presented to Pam Grogan District Secretary for her assistance during the year.

Rene Logan – Sadly Rene found it necessary to stand down from her official role as Appointments Secretary during the 2017 Christmas period and she will be greatly missed by all and we would like to acknowledge all her help and service given to Croydon. Rene has been awarded the Bar to Medal of Merit (card at the back of the room for signing please). Margaret Tyler offered to deliver a floral gift and a card to Rene with the thanks of the District.

Chris Dean presented Croydon's 3rd Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award this year to Daniel Bradnam.

18. Any other business

Tony Rowland mentioned a leaflet on the back table about Fun Walk in aid of Brenda Kirby Cancer Centre – please take one.

It was confirmed that we are looking at changing the format of the AGM and it is under discussion with the Executive Committee.

The Chair thanked the SAS for the refreshments and to everyone for coming.

Date of next meeting of the District Executive Committee is 25th June 2018 at Shirley High School.

There was no more business.

The meeting closed at 20.55 hrs

District Chair Report

Once again it is my pleasure to present our annual reports and accounts. I would urge you all to take the time to read the individual reports as they give a valuable insight into the opportunities and resources that are available to the young people who are Scouting in Croydon.

Like anybody starting a new job my first full year in post has been something of a learning curve. In addition to ensuring that the District Executive Committee and its sub Committees continue to support the District Team in delivering the support to the Leaders and Groups we have also been conducting a major review of governance in the District.

The purpose of this review has not only been to ensure that we are compliant, open, transparent and accountable in everything we do but to ensure that whatever we do continues to meet the needs and is in the best interest and for the benefit of Scouting in Croydon. We have identified a number of areas which require attention and in the coming months these will need to be addressed.

I appreciate that there are some difficult discussions that will need to be had and it is likely that some difficult decisions will need to be made. However we must all be prepared to accept that we need to do things differently if we are to fulfil our responsibilities and meet our aims. As Trustees acting on behalf of the District we should never forget that the interests of the young people are our primary concern.

As part of the review we have already implemented a number of changes to the operations of the Executive Committee. Additionally we are endeavouring to make the membership of the Committee more representative of the membership we serve. In addition to the new members I am delighted to be able to welcome Saiqa Ashgar our new District Treasurer and John Seaton as our new Deputy District Chair.

As for the sub Committees Don Johnston recently announced his retirement as Chair of the District Appointments Advisory Committee. Don will be replaced by Theresa Jeffrey and in turn she will be supported by Jenny Robson who takes over from Margaret Tyler as District Appointments Secretary. My thanks to both Don and Margaret for all their past efforts with the appointments process.

Elsewhere John Seaton has taken on the responsibility as Chair of the District Finance Committee and Steve French has agreed to act in a caretaker capacity as Chair of the relaunched District Public Relations Committee when he steps down as District Commissioner. We are also currently in the process of forming a working party to look at our risk management strategy.

One element of the review process has been to produce a District Constitution. This Constitution will be our primary document of governance and clearly details how the administrative side of the District will be managed along with the processes and procedures that will be followed. We will be asking members of the District Scout Council to approve and adopt the Constitution at the forthcoming District AGM. A number of other policies and strategies have also been produced which will assist us in the management and governance of the District. As you would expect the review is an ongoing process and in the longer term it is designed to make us much more professional and efficient in everything we do. It will also hopefully enable us to be proactive rather than reactive.

Another area we have reviewed is the financial management of the District. As a result a number of changes have been made to our accounting procedures including the welcomed introduction of electronic banking. We are currently in the process of reviewing the funds we hold and how they can best be allocated and used for the benefit and development of Scouting in Croydon.

The Executive have continued to provide support for our two District Training Centres along with the mobile climbing wall and the water based activities at South Norwood Lake. Looking ahead we are providing support for the individuals who will be attending the World Scout Jamboree in America later this year. Looking further ahead we will be providing support for Camp 2020.

Nationally Headquarters are undertaking a major review of Scouting to ensure that it is relevant and continues to offer what our membership wants. We must be ready to meet the challenges and opportunities that this process brings. The Executive have already made a commitment to support the Public Relations Committee with the rebranding of the District recruitment materials and resources.

As I mentioned earlier Steve French will be stepping down from his role as our District Commissioner having completed his full ten year term of office. I know that a number of tributes were paid to Steve at the Networking Event held in November and I would like to add my own personal thanks to Steve for his efforts and contributions to Scouting in Croydon during his time as our District Commissioner.

Steve will be replaced as District Commissioner by Greg Cook who has a long association with Scouting in Croydon. From my initial discussions with Greg I know his way of doing things will be very different in style to Steve. Whilst a change of direction and leadership style is never easy I am sure Greg will bring a fresh approach along with new ideas to the role and I would urge you all to support him.

As I have stated on a number of previous occasions I never cease to be amazed at the ingenuity and commitment of the small army of adults who freely and willingly donate their time to support and deliver Scouting to the young people of Croydon. No matter how big or small the contribution you make to support Scouting to each and every one of you I say a heartfelt thank you.

My thanks also to all the members of the District Executive Committee and the various sub Committees for both your support and contribution. Special mention and thanks also to John Seaton (my Deputy), Pam Grogan (District Secretary) and Saiqa Asghar (District Treasurer) who have somehow managed to put up with me during the past year.

And finally it is worth remembering that we are part of a wonderful worldwide movement which aims to engage with and support young people in their personal development to empower them to make a positive contribution to society. Sometimes I think it's important to take time to reflect on this and to remind ourselves of what we are doing and why we are doing it.

Dave Rixson
District Chair

District Commissioners Report

2018 was another tough year in Croydon showing a very small rise in membership. When you have a very District (larger than most Counties and Area's) and previously the largest District in the UK, it is a tough call with regards to the overall strategy and where you look to support the Groups and / or try to further develop the District. What is abundantly clear is that with an exciting and challenging programme young people will join and remain in Scouting, they will enjoy what they do and they will tell their friends. It is when the programme fails to excite and challenge they will stop coming. We can all understand this and need to respond to this motive.

Croydon is the 2nd largest of the London Boroughs and the demography across the Borough is extremely diverse and for Croydon Scouting to stay relevant and modern we need to welcome change and this can only be led by our Groups and Units with the variety and quality of what is offered on a weekly basis and working in their local communities.

Following some major changes to the District team towards the end of 2017 and during 2018 these changes are now starting to settle in and greater positivity is being seen across the District. There is new 'arterial pressure' pumping enthusiasm and a desire to tackle change around the District. New District events are being run and our young people are in the 'heart' of influencing this change with participation in the various youth forums being held around the District and in the Groups but this needs to continue and step up a gear. Our young people need to influence their Scouting and we need to support this model without question.

Our Youth Commissioners further developed in their roles and continue to influence the District. They made visits into Sections and assisted at several District events. During the Summer we welcomed Megan Young and Jake Belcher as new Youth Commissioners and to further support Emily Cruttenden and Aidan Devaney already in role. So Croydon now has a team of 4 Youth Commissioners and they have recently put together the District Youth Shaped Strategy which has been approved by the District Executive ready to be rolled out in the District. The Scout Association has published its vision for 2023 and this is all about Growth, Youth Led, Inclusion and Community Impact supported by the three pillars People, Programmes and Perception. Our Youth Shaped Strategy is something that needs to be embraced and applied right across the District.

Midway through 2018 we were also introduced to Greg Cook the new DC who would be taking over from me in January 2019. Greg attended several meeting and District events to introduce himself and to get a general feel for what was happening in Croydon. In November we held a District Networking Event at Royal Russell School which was a very successful event when Greg was officially 'invested' by Emily, one of our Youth Commissioners – now if that is not an example of **Youth Led Scouting** I really don't know what is.

In conclusion I have been very proud to have been DC in Croydon and having held the role for 10 years however I know the District is in very safe hands with Greg Cook at the helm, supported by our strengthen District Team and the District Executive. My sincere thanks to all Leaders and adults working in our Groups and Units in Croydon. Without your hardwork and dedication to the cause Croydon Scouting would simply not operate.

Cont:

My final thanks go to Margaret Tyler and Martin Greenwood my two Deputies for their help and support throughout 2018 and sincere thanks go to the District team, the District Executive, and to the County team for all their support and encouragement over my 10 years as DC of Croydon. Of course it would be remiss of me not to thank Marina my wife and Linda Ford for all the support given to me in a majority of my Scouting Activities over the last 10 years.

Steve French
District Commissioner
(Jan 2009 to Dec 2018)



District Beaver Scout Report

We would like to start our report, by thanking all of our wonderful volunteers that give up their time to help out at our Beaver Colonies around the District. Without your planning, dedication, commitment and ideas, our young people wouldn't be in Scouting. Thank you.

In March we held our Dinosaur Fun Day at Crystal Palace. This event attracted over 300 Beaver Scouts from a majority of our Colonies in Croydon for a packed activity day with the maze, craft, trail, wide games and inflatable fun. The possible highlight was being entertained and educated by our Dinosaur Rangers with their prehistoric pets. All the Beavers and adults alike had a great day and it started our District calendar off on a huge high.

In May we held our Challenge Day. Many of our Colonies were represented and took part in a variety of activities at Frylands Wood, from Archery to being locked up in the back of a Police van! This, hopefully helped our Colonies on their way to helping their Beavers achieve their Challenge badges.

In September, we held our first Bronze Reward day. This was offered to all Beavers who achieved their Bronze Award. We had a lovely day at the Bluebell Railway with a Harry Potter theme. We even had a guest appearance by Professor McGonagall and her supply of Bertie Botts, Every Flavour Beans!.....

These District events are a great opportunity for the Beavers to interact with one another and make new friends as we try to group Colonies together. It's also a way of introducing and getting our leaders talking to each other so that it will help with idea sharing and joint activities.

Going forward, our focus continues to help and support our Leaders and Colonies where needed. We are planning to offer some help with programme ideas, form filling and hopefully an OSM evening. Our forth-coming 2019 events include our Music Fest Fun Day planned for April our second Challenge Day in June and another Bronze Reward day planned for September.

Franchesca, Tana & Andrew
Croydon (ADC) Beaver Team

Email: beavers@croydonscouting.org.uk



District Cub Scout Report

Well another year has gone by and it has been a fairly busy year with the annual Badge Day. Over 2 days approx. 100 Cubs took part in doing the Emergency Aid Stage 1 and Stage 2 Badges. There were 6 bases ranging for Pulse taking, placing someone in the Recovery position to being made up with what looked like open wounds. Those who attended had a great time.

As a thankyou from the District, the recipients of the Chief Scouts Silver Award enjoyed a fun day Kayaking, Archery, Shooting and making use of the Climbing Wall in the setting of Pinewood Campsite.

On a wet May Saturday, approx. 90 took part in a Fund Raising Event called Cubonopy which was the brain child of Brian, a CSL at 5th Selsdon & Addington. Those who entered had great fun going round the District either by bus, tram or walking to find the various places on the Cubonopy Board. The money raised would be split 50:50 between the various Packs taking part and GOSH. A total of £2347.38 was raised and £1757.30 was presented to GOSH on Christmas Eve.

And Baloo in June saw a drop in numbers but those who attended had a great time covering 12 Bases to hopefully win the Baloo Trophy. And this year we were honoured to have our new DC - Greg, visit and even get involved with some of the Bases namely showing a Group how to tie Knots. And well done to 18th Purley who came 1st this year followed by 11th Purley and 1st Purley Adkin.

Due to the uptake of the Mang Challenge this year, it was decide to revert back to the original way it was started. This will come into effect from January 2019.

Finally, some new faces have joined the Cub Team namely Peter Low at 17th Purley and Brian Young at 5th Selsdon & Addington. And Mandy and Peter Pearce have stepped up into the role of ADC's.

Mandy, Peter & Jack
Joint ADC (Cubs)

Email: cubs@croydonscouting.org.uk

SCOUTS

District Scout Report

We had a fantastic year in 2018 endeavouring to change the dynamic of the District events calendar with the emphasis on being youth led.

In May 2018, we organised a Chief Scouts Gold Award (CSGA) Celebration day held at Pinewood campsite. Numbers were not as high as we originally wanted at 30 Scouts, but all attendees really enjoyed themselves doing a days' worth of; kayaking, archery, climbing & rifle shooting. We are planning to do this event again in 2020, but with a twist.

Later in May, we had the Checkpoint Challenge event. With a slightly different route this year & a few new activities, we did get a few teams dropping out and not being able to complete the route, but we also had a couple of younger teams participating as a practice under the supervision of a Leader. Overall, the event was a success, with a lot of teams saying they liked the challenge & we could not have asked for better weather. All Scouts returned, with no injuries!

In June, we ran the first Water Activity Fun Day which we decided South Norwood Lake was the best body of water to run this type of activity. With around 60 young people in total across two sessions, everyone (including adults) got to try open boating & kayaking. Some of the Scouts had never tried one or both of these activities and they really enjoyed having fun on the lake with lots of other young people from around the District.

July, we had our very first (and definitely not the last) Cardboard Canoe Challenge at Pinewood lake. This proved to be one of our most entertaining events, where everyone was able to have lots of fun building a cardboard canoe and 'try' to sail it... just making it float was a challenge for some canoes! This event was so popular, we have decided to run it again in 2019 and would expect a similar turnout. We will also be running open fire cooking sessions to keep the kids warm & entertained whilst waiting for their session on the water.

In September, we decided to run a Patrol Leaders forum at Pinewood Scout Centre. This is a great way for us to start planning our District programme as we are able to get lots of great ideas from the PL's & APL's. Whilst we do have to filter out some of the more extreme activities like skydiving & bungee jumping, but we are able to use some of these ideas and will be incorporating some of these into our 2019/2020 District programmes.

In preparation for the County Cooking Competition, we run our own take on this event in October at 1st Coulsdon's HQ. Currently we are able to fit 13 teams into the hall & we quickly hit capacity with this event. We gave the Scouts a theme and part of the competition is to have a costume relating to the theme/culture of the food they were cooking! This makes it a little different and we have had some fantastic costumes at the last 2 events. We are interested in alternative options to give us more space, as we are keen to bring the maximum number of teams up to 15/16 – please let us know if you have anywhere in mind.

As the evenings in November are much darker, we ran a big wide game in Shirley Hills and this event will be repeated in future years.

I would like to thank the District Scout Team (Richard, Yorkie, Dawn, Kaye, Claire & Inshan) for all the time & effort that they have put in this year. With a lot of our events growing and requiring us to increase spaces by 20-30% for events. This shows that we are running an engaging & fun programme.

I would also like to thank all of the Scout Leaders who have supported our events and helped us when needed.

Jordan De Saa
ADC Scouts

Email: scouts@croydonscouting.org.uk

EXPLORERS

District Explorer Scout Report

During the year there has been a slight reorganisation of the Units within the District Purley Oaks and Sanderstead units merged to form a new unit with Nick Smith as the leader and Alex from Sanderstead staying on to assist, the new Unit relocated from their respective venues to the hut in the woods at the 19th Purley. The Unit saw some strong growth in numbers.

Coulsdon also had a change of direction with Ashely and Ken joining John and Andy to strengthen the link with the 17th Purley, the re-vamped unit changed its name to Coulsdon Falcons, again seeing a good increase with the numbers. Sadly we saw the demise of Colliers without as the experiment of weekend meetings saw little interest. Also Phoenix had been struggling with number for a few years and they have started to meet with Kenley bring a few of the remaining members. Disappointingly with all the changes and the strong increase at Purley Oaks and Coulsdon Falcons the end of year census had exactly the same numbers, 182, as the previous years. But maybe the numbers will grow with a good basis formed with the changed structure.

This year for the first time in a number of years we had a Croydon Explorer gain his Explorer Belt, congratulations Will Graham. The Explorer Belt is a special achievement as the candidates travel round a foreign county self-supported for 10 days and embed themselves in the local culture undertaking a number of pre-set challenges, such as attend a civic ceremony. This time the teams went to Galicia, Spain.

All the Units are working toward top Scouting awards with 3 Chief Scout Platinum awards and 2 Bronze DofE awards gained at Seahorses. We also have 2 Young Leaders who have just turned 18 who have completed their gold DofE but have not had them presented yet. Many more Bronze and Silvers are in the pipeline at all the units. As ever it is a challenge with the Schools being able to start earlier than the Scouts and registering DofE participants first. I'm hoping in the coming year to use this to our advantage and focus on converting the school DofE efforts to top awards by getting the Units focus on the Scouting IVC aspects which will allow us to present Diamond and Platinum Chief Scout Challenges and hopefully a few Queens Scouts after Explorers have completed DofE awards the their School or College. Croydon and GLSW can make a difference at DofE Gold, as the Schools are not so set up for that and we can offer that as Explorers transition into Network.

Croydon Explorers have been out and camping In Kandersteg with the Network, in Dorset and the Brecon Beacons. Additionally the Explorers attended Winter Camp, Southern 50, Scarefest and had the biggest turnout for Gilwell 24 Croydon has ever with over 60 participants. Additionally Purley Oaks and Seahorses have crewed for Frylands Wood over many weekends. Croydon joined Sutton for our Mountaineering weekend this year and had a good days walking in Snowdonia on the Saturday. On the Sunday the County Mountaineering team excelled themselves by setting up a sea traverse which included a section with a Tyrolian traverse, which spans a gap in the rock with just 2 ropes and the Explorers had to propel themselves across the gap. Something very few mountaineers ever get to do.

As ever the Units have been running active and interesting programs, activities as varied as Gliding, Climbing, Cycling at Herne Hill Velodrome, Casualty Simulation, Croquet, Navigation Masterclasses, Handbell ringing and cooking in as many variations as possible (lightweight, backwoods, Ready Steady, etc etc). Seahorses were invited to the Mayor's Parlour in Croydon Town Hall during Parliament Week. Croham Valley visited the Farnborough Air Show and also spent a day flying with Surrey Scouts at Redhill, working towards Air Activities badge.

Richard Goad
Explorer Commissioner

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network

District Network Report

At the beginning of the year we ran our first Nextwork meeting, deciding on a social event rather than a usual meeting and we were delighted with the turnout. It was great to meet up with potential new recruits and we were able to answer questions and give them more information over a game of bowling. We have continued to meet regularly on the last Tuesday of the month, and the executive are running and organising events. We congratulated Daniel Bradnam on completing his Silver Duke of Edinburgh award and we entered a team into Operation Red Flare, the team proudly came away with the Network trophy for the event.

Over the rest of the year we have enjoyed various cooking activities, climbing, pumpkin carving, a competitive board games evening, some of us also attended the celebration of 100 years of the RAF at Horse Guards parade and had the opportunity to sit inside a Chinook helicopter, we've assisted on Duke of Edinburgh expeditions and at various district events including the WW1 memorial event at Parish Church and we ended the year with a Christmas party.

We joined up with Pinewood Explorers to go to Kandersteg over the summer, we all met in the early hours of Sunday morning where the first order of business was to invest a number of new recruits into Network, it was our biggest investiture to date and a great way to welcome everyone into Network. Whilst in Switzerland we got to do some Gorge jumping, traversing icebergs and tobogganing and we also found a quiet moment to renew our promise with the backdrop of a mountain lake and mountains.

Our final camp of the year was once again at Gilwell Reunion at the start of September, following on from the success of extending the camp last year we did the same this year. Once again we welcomed some new faces alongside current members, we tried our hand at axe throwing, zipwire and the various discos and evening entertainments, we also made our debut on Scout Radio with a Sunday morning interview and karaoke. Whilst we were away we were able to discuss the year ahead and vote in the Network executive for the forthcoming year.

It has been a really successful year for Network, the exec members have worked really hard to organise a variety of fun and challenging activities and events. We welcome everyone between 18 -25, you can find us on Snapchat, Twitter and Facebook.

Cari-ann Bailey
Croydon District Network Commissioner

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Scout Active Support Report

Croydon Active Support continued throughout 2018, carrying out regular service activities including at the Frylands Funday, Woodlarks Campsite and District Renewal of Promise.

Sadly despite various differently targeted efforts we did not manage to extend our membership, nor our list of activities, and towards the end of the year I felt it was time to stand aside and resigned as manager in order to allow for someone with new ideas and perhaps less Group orientated commitment to take over. I am however carrying on instead as Scout Active Support manager solely for the Unit running our water rockets.

I certainly hope that the original goals of Active Support, to meet the needs of the District it sits within, whilst facilitating flexible volunteering, can be determined and met, whilst continuing to meet the continuous need of maintaining a link for those who cannot, for whatever reason, currently participate as Leaders.

Kate Balzer (Manager)
Scout Active Support Croydon



Youth Commissioner Report

Introduction

The Youth Commissioner team has continued to expand and grow throughout 2018 and has continue to go from strength to strength.

Team Growth

Earlier in 2018, there were changes made to the team, meaning that the Youth Commissioner team was reduced to a two-person team. Therefore, we set out to expand the team (something that was already in our yearly objectives anyway,) to strengthen and improve the team and what we could do. The team eventually expanded by another two people, Megan Young and Jake Belcher, who have been officially appointed and are now undertaking their full appointment training. The search continued throughout 2018, as we started to speak to young people within the local Explorer Scout Groups about adult appointments and planted the seed for them to join the team. We now have some more young people who have recently turned 18, considering joining our team and taking it on as their full-time adult appointment. This is something we are continuing to pursue into this new year.

District Activities

Throughout 2018, we continued to ensure that at least one Youth Commissioner member was at most meetings and events. This has been something that has gone successfully, now the team has expanded, meaning an easier division of labour and that the District team has continued to become familiar with the whole team. We continued to promote Youth Shaped Scouting through the use of the Facebook page and make ourselves freely available via email and in person, to discuss Youth Shaped ideas. We promoted Youth Shaped month on Facebook, providing links to resources and encouraging people to share their achievements and activities with other leaders, encouraging the sharing of resources and best practice. One focal point of the District calendar was the Patrol Leader Training Weekend where Aidan got to take part and help our Young People understand the importance of taking what they had learnt back to their groups as well. At the end of 2018, we said goodbye to Steve French, our previous DC, at an evening at Royal Russell School. Emily and Aidan were then lucky enough to be part of the ceremony to invest Greg Cooke, the new DC, into his new role. 2018 was a busy year for the Youth Commissioner team overall!

Wider Regional Activities

Emily represented the Youth Commissioner team at Regional Conference, talking about Youth Shaped and meeting Tim Kidd. She presented throughout the entire day, with the help of the Regional team and met lots of Scouters from across the region. She fielded questions from the crowd and continued to emphasise the importance of our role and why it is important to the wider growth and development of the Scouting Association. The team regularly tuned in to the UK Youth Commissioner annual conference calls where we were kept up to date with any UK wide changes and conveyed these to the rest of the District via the Facebook page. At the annual Gilwell Reunion 2018, all Youth Commissioners were in attendance of the Youth Commissioner session and training. Here we saw Hannah Kentish

hand over responsibilities to Ollie Wood and thank her team for their commitment to Youth Shaped. Emily, Megan and Aidan represented the Youth Commissioner team when attending the Queens Garden Party, as part of the working party. They all received amazing feedback and Emily was lucky enough to talk to both Prince William and the Queen herself!

Aidan has very recently been selected as the 'Deputy Contingent Leader' for the County's Eurojam Contingent and will be taking 36 young people from across GLSW inter-railing around Europe and to a jamboree in Gdansk, Poland.

Youth Shaped Strategy

Earlier this year the Youth Commissioners set out to write up the Districts very first 'Youth Shaped strategy,' a document to help support leaders deliver an effective programme and also set out what each member of Croydon Scouting, including the District team, should be aiming for when it comes to Youth Shaped Scouting. This document is ready and has been written in, as official District policy, meaning that the District team and the exec both agree that this guide is the best course of action for leaders within Croydon Scouting. Please note that there are many resources to help support you in delivering the Strategy, however the Youth Commissioners are also more than happy to help in whatever way we can. This document has been now been looked at up and down the country and many Districts have taken on elements of this Strategy to help improve their District and UKYC has said that it's a great resource that will help elevate groups within the District.

Conclusion

Overall, the Youth Commissioner team had a very successful year in 2018. We participated in a variety of events on District and wider regional levels and met the targets that we set at the beginning of the year. We aim to continue this into the next year and fulfil the goals that we have set to continue to improve our coverage and the impact we have on the District.

Emily Cruttenden / Aidan Devaney
Megan Young / Jake Belcher
Croydon District Youth Commissioners

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District Adult Training Report

I have been the District Training Manager for 14 months now and 2018 was my first the full year in the role. There have been various changes in the year with 7 training advisors coming on board in April and assisting me; plus, a new compulsory module for all Leaders and executive members GDPR.

Over the year I have been looking at ensuring Leaders are seen and validated within the timescales for completing getting started and woodbadges (5 months and 3 years respectively). This has been relatively successful however, there are still some getting started breaches occurring, plus over 30 Leaders who have not completed their woodbadges within 3 years. All GSLs have been informed of the Leaders concerned and hopefully this will rectify itself during the current year.

The new First Aid provision has been going for a year and appears to be working well with a couple of courses held in Croydon as well as other parts of the County. There is a major change to First Aid in 2019, and by June, there will be no more refresher courses (the evening courses) taking place, all First Aid courses will be the full all-day courses.

Safeguarding has also been revamped and courses are held in Croydon twice a year (June and November) – courses are held in all 5 Districts twice a year so there are 10 courses a year for people to attend. As well as the course run jointly with Sutton and at County level Leaders are also going outside County with courses run by GLSE, Surrey and Kent.

A list of people gaining wood badges and completing getting started is listed below. There were 19 wood badges and 36 getting started – this is compared with 14 and 31 in 2017. As an aside to this information there are 126 people currently in Training in Croydon. The next largest number in County is just over 40.

Finally, a big thank you to all the training advisors – Liz O'Brien; Sean Weston; Jack Wensley; Anthony Eeles; Sarah Turner; Theresa Jeffrey and Margaret Tyler; plus, other members of the District team for all their assistance during the year.

Woodbadges 2018

- Andrew Brackenbury ASL 16th Purley
- Andrew Davies ADC Beavers District
- Beth Peters ACSL 61st Croydon
- Carolyn Draper ABSL 29th Croydon
- Chris Sinclair ACSL 1st Purley
- Darren Hawken SL 31st Croydon
- Eric Sands ASL 1st Purley
- Fiona Oliver CSL 1st Coulsdon Warriors
- Franchesca Taylor ADC Beavers District
- Fred Ferriman ASL 2nd S & A
- Ian Know CSL 10th Croydon
- Jon Slade DTM District
- Katherine Marlow ACSL 1st Coulsdon Hunters
- Luke Best ASL 19th Purley
- Maddie Dunn BSL 1st S & A
- Rob Buckley ASL 1st Purley
- Sheila Nash ABSL 39 Croydon
- Tanisha Anderson ESL 1st Crystal Palace

- Tracey Hague BSL 1st Croydon

Getting Started 2018

- Abdul Hafeez ACSL 30th Purley
- Adam Bolingbrooke ACSL 29th Purley
- Adam Cooper ABSL 1st Purley
- Andrea Howlett ASL 7/12th Croydon
- Andrew Brackenbury ASL 16th Purley
- Andy Seward ASL 11th Purley
- Cath Andrews ACSL 29th Purley
- Charlie Brice ACSL 39th Croydon
- Chris Chapman CSL 9th Purley
- Christopher Parker ABSL 7th Purley
- Darren Latter ASL 44th Croydon
- Dominic Warner ABSL 1st Coulsdon
- Farah Lodhi ABSL 30th Purley
- Gary Asbury ABSL 11th Purley
- Hafiz Yaseen ACSL 30th Purley
- Harriet Evans ASL 11th Purley
- Heather Clark ASL 23rd Croydon
- Jake Belcher District Youth Commissioner
- James Dyball ASL 61st Croydon
- Joanne Whaley ABSL 61st Croydon
- John Edwards ASL 17th Purley
- Justine Rimell ABSL 5th S & A
- Kazim Razvi ABSL 30th Purley
- Kevin Davies ABSL 5th S & A
- Laura Speechley GSL 1st Purley
- Leah Campbell-Cochrane ABSL 39th Croydon
- Lisa Wheelan ABSL 26th Croydon
- Nell Tillbury ABSL 19th Purley
- Omar Yassin ACSL 30th Purley
- Richard Geal BSL 28th Croydon
- Sadeef Khokhar ABSL 30th Purley
- Samha Faisal ABSL 30th Purley
- Saubye Majeed ACSL 30th Purley
- Shane Booth ASL 1st Selsdon & Addington
- Tracey MacDonald ABSL 1st Coulsdon
- Vanessa Minter ASL 31st Croydon

Jon Slade
District Training Manager

Email: training@croydonscouting.org.uk

Chaplains Faith and Belief Report

During 2018 the main focus of our work was linking with the various Scout Groups, District Archives and other organisations to develop and prepare ourselves for the service we held on 26th January 2019 to remember all the Scouts that lost their lives in the Great War and all subsequent conflicts. The date was specifically chosen to correspond with the same service that was held at the former St Matthew's Church in College Road, Croydon 100 years ago.

This was a significant service of remembrance and respect that included dignitaries such as the Mayor of Croydon, The current and new Deputy Lieutenant's for Croydon and senior members of Croydon Scouting, several of our Vice Presidents and many of our Groups and Units and their current adult and youth membership.



During the service Graham Baker (ACSL – 28th Croydon) played 'The Last Post' followed by a period of silence and then 'Reveille'. Poppy Wreaths were then placed by Cllr. Bernadette Khan (Mayor of Croydon), Col. Ian McRobbie OBE (Deputy Lieutenant) and Greg Cook (District Commissioner). Then followed a very moving tribute with Steve French (Ex DC) reading out a list of former Croydon Scouts, as 75 current youth representatives from Croydon Scouting each presented and laid a corresponding single wooden poppy cross, at the foot of the altar. Each cross bearing the name of one of the 75 former Scouts members who gave their lives in the Great War.

This was held with much gratitude to Dr, Canon, Revd Andrew Bishop at Croydon Minster as it was seen as the main religious centre point for both Croydon and Purley. I would like to thank all those that not only dedicated much time to the event but also all those that joined this important service, remembering those that truly met their Scouting promises "to do their best, for their neighbour and to God". We continue to remember all those that gave their life, and the families that have suffered from the loss of loved ones, but we know that they provided the future as we know it for all our Scouts of the future. Following the service light refreshments were offered in the adjacent Church Hall with the opportunity to examine selected items from the District Archives.



In addition to the above event, the Chaplain has provided much pastoral, spiritual and religious support to our leaders as they experience the difficulties that they experience, not only as Scout's but also in their private lives. As we look forward to the coming year, plans are now being made to conduct a tour of the Multi

faith worship Chapel at Croydon Health Services, not only to give an overview of the main faith traditions in Croydon but also to give identify how faiths are able to live in harmony and to worship close together. The first of these tours will be held in October.

Revd. Andy Dovey

District Chaplain Email: chaplain@croydonscouting.org.uk

District Appointments Sub-Committee Report

The Appointment Advisory sub-committee met 12 times during the year. The Committee saw 44 candidates (with roles broken down as follows)

BSL	6
ABSL	9
CSL	7
ACSL	7
SL	1
ASL	8
GSL	2
AESL	1
ADC	2
YC	1

For information these applicants came from 23 various Groups in Croydon and from one Explorer Unit. Most candidates had been contacted by someone from the training team and many had already started on their training.

Sincere thanks go to Hallam Carter-Pegg for the use of his office location for meetings and for deputising for me on those occasions when I could not attend. Thanks also go to all Scouters who gave up their time to sit on the committee bringing their varied Scouting experience to the committee and to Margaret Tyler who has managed the administration of the committee during the 2018.

I will be stepping down as chair of the committee at the end of the year in the safe knowledge that 2019 will bring a new and refreshed committee ready to tackle the needs of modern Scouting and more importantly Croydon Scouting.

Donald Johnson - Chair

District Safety Committee Report

Advise of Premises: The District Safety Committee exists to offer help and advice to Scout Groups in the District on their statutory responsibility under Health and Safety Legislation and duty of care for safety of persons using their premises.

We have conducted a safety audit of Group and District premises and provided a report to the Group with recommendations for improvement where necessary. These recommendations have been generally well received but not fully implemented by all Groups. We are available to carry out a Safety Re -Audit of premises but only by invitation of the group safety officers or GSL.

The Safety Committee are seeking new members to join their ranks and help with the safety audit of group meeting places. It is helpful if the willing recruit has some Health and Safety background;-
e.g. NEBOSH or of Membership of IOSH, or a workplace appointment or safety training.

Fire Risk Assessments: The Regulatory Reform Order (RRO) came into force on 1st October 2006. Under this reform it is a legal obligation that all premises require a Fire Risk Assessment. The regulation also requires that a documented Fire Risk Assessment be available for inspection on the premises and that all users be aware and trained in the actions required by the assessment.

Other legal requirements: Under 'The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974' other legal requirements have been introduced. In Scouting we may not be at work but this legislation forms the basis of good practice and is applicable when premises are let out to other users. In the event of an emergency or incident we may find ourselves judged against these legal requirements. We therefore recommend the following practices, procedures and paperwork as evidence of Duty of Care.

- Appoint a Group Safety Officer
- Maintain a Group Health and Safety Policy
- Maintain a Safety Logbook for your premises
- Prepare and maintain a Fire Risk Assessment
- Regularly inspect and hold certificates for Electrical and Gas Installation and Fire extinguishers.
- Provide training and record training for Users of the premises and Members
- Maintain an available First Aid Kit and accident procedures and record.
- Provide a welcome pack to all new members and a user pack to all leaders and users of your premises.

Below is a list of attachments available on the web site that can be downloaded and adapted for individual group purposes

- Group Health & Safety Policy
- Group Safety Logbook
- Group Safety Officer Duties
- Group Fire Risk Assessment.doc
- Duty of Care Summary
- User Training Notes and Welcome Pack
- Risk Assessment for Group Maintenance Activities
- Storage of LPG
- First Aid notice board sign
- Asbestos in your home
- Disabled Discrimination Act requirements
- Electrical and Gas Installations – The Regulation requirements
- Group Premises Audit Check List
- Safety requirements for your group meeting place
- HSE Publication indg236 Electrical Inspections

*District Safety Committee,
Chair: Tony Grogan.TechIOSH,MIIRSM, NEBOSH
Tel 01959 523649 E: tonygrogan93@gmail.com*

Members, John Ashe & John Hazeldean,

Bears Wood Report 2018

During the Winter months we spent time clearing up the fallen leaves from around the site. Cutting and splitting logs is an on-going job to ensure a supply of weathered timber for use in the building wood burner and for elsewhere on site. In response to requests from visitors, our new outdoor washing up facility with both hot and cold water is now available adjacent to the main building's side entrance.

Spring and summer months for the volunteer team at Bears Wood generally focus on tidying up in and around the main building and such areas as the Campfire Circle. It is also a good time to catch up on log cutting and splitting to boost reserves of logs available on site.

Incoming bookings have kept, and will continue to keep the site wardens busy, welcoming and looking after visiting Scout Groups – camping and attending events such as the annual Baloo Trophy and children from Schools both in Croydon and further afield.

Adopt A Site - One very welcome trend that took off this year is camp site 'adoption'. Members of 1st Biggin Hill and 4th Bromley have each adopted one of our many individual sites. They get to camp at reduced rates, and for their part keep the site clean and properly maintained. Other Groups are invited to consider this arrangement.

During a busy summer's camping Bears Wood welcomed visitors from far and near, including Scout Troops from both France and the Netherlands. Also keeping our regular volunteers busy is the camp site's on-going programme of works. A major project completed this year was the installation of an interlinking steel perimeter fence which we believe will improve site security. Beryl Watts our booking secretary is standing down at the end of the year and tribute is paid for all her hard work over the years.

All Change – improvements to the site's car parking area have seen the provision of a perimeter tyre wall, which we believe will make parking more convenient for all. Martin Groves joins the team as the new Bears Wood booking secretary. Bookings for 2019 continue to come in and, on that subject an updated booking form will be in place very shortly. Finally, following rigorous testing, the site recently passed its electrical inspection.

Bears Wood Management Committee

Pinewood Scout Centre Report

A huge thanks to all the Committee members and service day volunteers, old and young, who have worked so hard to improve facilities at Pinewood during 2018.

Pinewood was incredibly busy during 2018, seeing Scouts and non-Scouts, and Scout Groups from further afield, and the income generated has been reinvested into the site and ground improvements.

During 2018 we'd had several School and Corporate groups of volunteers working on site during the week, very successfully. We also had several very successful service days, and in addition to the usual building and grounds maintenance these also resulted in the proposed car park area being cleared of small trees and undergrowth ready for levelling and road planings being laid. The new car parking area was finished and is now in full use. It has greatly reduced rogue parking around the compound and archery range / climbing wall areas.

We also built a tomahawk throwing range and longer term we're planning to obtain accreditation for delivery of tomahawk instructor training in order to train and assess additional instructors. The working relationship with the climbing wall team continues to flourish and it's great to see so many local young people experiencing climbing locally at Pinewood.

The 5 year refurbishment programme which started under Andy Robson's stewardship has largely been completed with the boiler and shower refurbishment the outstanding items. We have recently obtained funds from Croydon Council and will be completing both projects during 2019.

Grounds wise much work has been done to clear areas of rhododendron and replace with native trees so as to create an under storey and some succession. Many of the mature trees are of an age when they will start failing. With this in mind we commissioned a full tree survey which was undertaken by an independent, Croydon Council approved arborealist and this resulted in 13 mature trees having crowns reduced / felled in order to prevent problems in the future. This survey also included all trees growing overhanging neighbours properties to identify any potential issues there. We will be repeating this process every 5 years in line with recommended best practise.

Our December service day mostly involved clearing the smaller brush etc from these tree works and using the trunk sections to provide seating around the site. Us clearing the brush etc ourselves was a conscious decision to keep costs down and saved several hundreds of £s.

The working relationship with Croydon Council Green Spaces Team has continued to flourish into a genuine partnership bringing tangible benefits. They organised another excellent Open Day on Sat 19th May, the site was full of non-Scouting people, mostly families with youngsters.

In short then, Pinewood is set to be even busier than last year and with the improvements we've made and continue to make in the lodge and the grounds, it's already even busier this year.

George Campbell (Chair)
Pinewood Management Committee

Mobile Climbing Wall

When I wrote last year's report I was rather effusive, for which I make no apology. This was because I was blown away with how great a year we had had, how successful the wall had been and how much support I had from adults with the running of the wall. Well, if possible I think we out performed all of that in 2018. It was an even more successful year than previously due to many factors outlined below.

Again we started in March and went through to September at all sorts of events from instructor training to school summer fetes, from Group camps to local summer fayres. We again had a massive presence at the Croydon YOU day open to all the uniformed youth organisations in the Borough, ran sessions for the local Army and RAF cadets at Royal Russell School CCF and ran 20 Scouting events.

In total we ran the wall at 36 events, where it was used for 167 hours of climbing, which all had to be staffed by our ever-willing volunteer instructors who gave over 700 hours of their time to make it all possible. A huge effort, for which we are very grateful to have such brilliant people in our District. All of this allowed nearly 3400 climbers who attempted almost 9900 ascents of our wall. In 2017 those figures were 23 events, 102 hours of climbing, 486 instructor hours, 2250 climbers and 5500 ascents, so perhaps you can see why I am even more proud than last year.

There were two other factors that massively helped to make the year so good. Firstly we promised to trial evening sessions in the week during the summer term. This proved extremely popular and successful with 22 sections booking in and approximately 300 young people from Croydon Scouting climbing on the various nights and this will be repeated in the future. The second was again the close cooperation between us and Frylands Wood Scout Outdoor Centre who hired our wall for numerous sessions to help cover when their own wall was out of commission.

With increased usage inevitably comes increased running cost. Thankfully the increased usage generated increased income and together with the generous donations from some of our Croydon Local Ward Councillors we were able to cover all costs incurred.

As last year, it only remains for me to say a HUGE thank you to all who have given me and the Mobile Climbing Wall such willing support over the year. Just remember without you, none of this would be possible – Thank you from all the young people of Croydon.

Martin Greenwood

Deputy District Commissioner
SAS Unit Manager (Mobile Climbing Wall)

Email: climbingwall@croydonscouting.org.uk

