

Bourne Again Reborn



A Happy New Year to all our readers !

DC Report

I hope you and your families have stayed safe and managed to rest and recover a little over the festive period following the year that was! 2020 will never be forgotten and it really has deserved all those phrases we all keep hearing like, unprecedented, exceptional, unimaginable, and what about F2F, Red, Amber, Green, virtual Scouting, Zoom and tier 5?

We should however all take a moment to reflect on what we have achieved and to thank all our members for the monumental efforts that everyone has made to keep Croydon District alive and well. There have been some very valuable lessons learned in 2020 about the very nature of why does Croydon Scouting exist, What do we do to fulfil this need and how do we deliver Scouting in Croydon.

Just to confirm the Scout Association (POR) say's "**Scouting exists to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society**". There are likely to be some changes in the coming months to ensure that we prosper and grow in the future and I look forward to your further support and commitment with these changes.

I hope that as the effects of the various vaccines currently being given we will see a progressive and sustained return to normal and that we can once more enjoy and see the benefits we give to our members and communities. My Best wishes for 2021.

Greg Cook - DC Croydon
Email: dc@croydonscouting.org.uk

Chairman's Report

It was with great sadness that I learnt that both Chippie Wood and Liam Campbell had been called to higher service. Both Chippie and Liam had been long serving members of Scouting in Croydon holding a variety of roles. I know that they will be greatly missed by their many friends and colleagues in Croydon Scouting.

Chippie had given seventy plus years of service to Scouting in Croydon and Kate Balzer in her capacity as Secretary for the Pinewood Management Committee has produced a wonderful obituary. Please contact either Kate or myself if you wish to receive a copy. There are also plans for a fitting memorial to Chippie at Pinewood.

Charitable Status

Each individual Group is considered to be an educational charity and the Trustees of the charity are the Group Executive Committee. There has recently been some confusion as to whether or not individual Groups should be registered with the Charity Commission.

It should be noted that regardless of whether or not a Group is registered with the Charity Commission that the Group Executive Committee are obliged to act as Charity Trustees and follow the requirements of the Charities Act.

The latest guidance from the Scout Association states that any Group with an interest (ownership or otherwise) in land or property and with an overall income in excess of £5,000 must be registered with the Charity Commission and therefore my understanding is that any Group with their own Headquarters should be registered.

Cont: Page2:

As members of Croydon Scouting we all promise to do our best

Chair's Report cont (2).

Additionally when applying (or receiving) external funding Groups are increasingly being asked to provide their registered charity number. It should be noted that it is not acceptable to use the registration number of another charity and this extends to using the District, County or Scout Association registered numbers.

Social Media

Can I please remind all Groups/Units that they have a responsibility to ensure that the content of their Group/Unit website (and any social media sites etc) is compliant, relevant and appropriate. Whether we like it or not as representatives of the Scout Association we also have a responsibility to ensure that the content of our own personal social media sites etc is also appropriate.

Group AGM's

If you have not already held your AGM to present your reports and accounts for the year ending 2019 can I please urge you to do so as soon as possible. All Groups should have the free Zoom licence (which was recently extended until March) and there is plenty of advice and guidance available on how to conduct your AGM online.

District AGM 2021

On the subject of AGM's, we have now confirmed Friday 4th June 2021 as the date for this year's District AGM and this will be another virtual event like our successful event in 2020.

Face to Face Scouting

A reminder that as long as face to face meetings are permitted that both Bears Wood and Pinewood will be open for restricted use. For availability (and details of reduced charges) please contact the respective site Booking Secretaries.

Adult Appointments

Following a successful trial, I am pleased to report that meetings/interviews for the Adults Appointments Committee are now being conducted online via Zoom. The vetting and application processes are still being dealt with in the normal way.

Executive Training

As I have mentioned previously it is now a requirement for all Executive Committee Members to complete the mandatory training requirements within the required timeframe. To avoid any embarrassing situations can I please ask all Executive members to ensure that they complete and keep their training up to date.

Risk Assessments

Can I also remind you that all Groups should ideally have an agreed procedure for the oversight and approval (where necessary) of all risk assessments.

Cont:

Note from DC (Awards)

Just before Christmas I received a considerable number of Long Service Awards, Woodbadge Certificates and Woodbeads (where applicable).

Many congratulations to you all for your achievements. A full list will be circulated via our Croydon Scouts – Leaders FB Group.

Chair's Report cont (3).

Group Finances

In view of the ongoing situation can I please ask that all Groups/Units review their finances and financial planning. All Groups/Units should ensure that they have sufficient funds to meet their annual running costs (including the membership fee) for a least a year and sufficient reserves to meet any liabilities or unexpected costs.

All Members Meetings

The recent online all members Headquarters meetings/briefings have been a really useful way of finding out first hand what's happening and why. The published dates for this year's meetings/briefings are Thursday 11th February 2021, Wednesday 5th May 2021 and Thursday 14th October 2021.

Videocast

In the last issue I mentioned that I was planning to produce some form of videocast. This is in the pipeline and details of the first of these will be circulated shortly.

And Finally

There can be little doubt that the events of last year have proved to be very challenging and if I'm honest at times overwhelming. However, in true Scouting style we have adapted to suit the circumstances and we now have a firm foundation on which to approach the coming year.

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.

Regards

Dave Rixson
District Chair
Email: chair@croydonscouting.org.uk

Beaver Report



What a strange autumn term that has resulted in a lot of Groups meeting on Zoom throughout and others meeting when they could face to face. Planning has been difficult with short notice of changes between face to face meetings and the need to meet virtually.

It appears most Groups are still meeting but using Zoom or Google head. The last update we had showed that just 13 Beaver Colonies had sent in Covid Risk assessments that had been approved meaning they could meet up when it was allowed. We know that as meeting face to face is limited to 15 children, a number of Groups were still using Zoom as their Colony is larger than 15 Beavers.

As ADCs we want to encourage all Beaver Leaders to keep in contact with the members of their Colony. This is important as the Beavers can still earn badges and see one another even if it is only on a screen. For any person who does not have access they can still be sent details of what they need to do to keep up with others in their Colony using the post. We have had parents contact us to say how thankful they are that Beavers still meet online and how their child has enjoyed meeting the others in their Colony during these difficult times.

There are still a number of Groups we have not heard from at all. If you are reading this as a Beaver Leader please update us with your programme and what you have been up to and how you are meeting so we can include you in the next District Newsletter. Notwithstanding that, it would be great to hear from you and we do need regular copies of your Colony programmes anyway.

You can also find ideas on 1st Facebook Beaver Scout Colony site, previous emails sent out by Michael and Gina and the Scouts own website which is https://www.scouts.org.uk/volunteers/running-your-section/running-a-beaver-colony/beavers-covid-19-safe-games-and-activities/?dm_i=31ME,130NC,3DBEQK,45QC7,1

My Colony in particular (2nd S&A) have enjoyed baking from home in our 'Bake Off' competitions and recently played bingo. They can still have fun on Zoom so please keep in contact with all the Beavers in your Colony.

By the time this goes out Christmas will be over. We hope you had a relaxing time and Happy New Year from the two of us.

Tana & Andrew
Joint ADC (Beavers)
Email: beavers@croydonscouting.org.uk

Cub Report

Quite a few Packs were able to go back to F2F albeit not a full Pack and having to run the same meeting over 2 weeks – seemed to keep the enthusiasm going. On the other hand, a lot were still holding regular weekly meetings via Zoom etc and having Guest Speakers to either do Badge Work or to talk about their respective Charity and the work it does.

Also, a special mention to a Cub from 11th Purley who has managed to complete his Chief Scouts Silver Award during the whole of Lockdown 1 & 2.

Moving forward, hopefully there is some light at the end of the tunnel and hopefully as a District we can resume the likes of the Mang Challenge and Baloo Trophy in the not too distant future.

Mandy Giles / Peter Pearce
Joint ADC (Cubs)
Email: cubs@croydonscouting.org.uk



The Cub Scout Law:

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

SCOUTS

Scout Report

As we swiftly move from 2020 into 2021 I think we all agree that this has been probably the most challenging and difficult year that we have faced during our lifetimes. It's also probably the most challenging time that Scouting has faced, even including 2 World Wars. However, we want to reflect on some positives throughout this very difficult year.

The way that the Leadership teams in the Troops have risen to the challenge of continuing to provide much needed Scouting to the Young People in their Section has been amazing. This includes all the Assistant Leaders, Sectional Assistants and Young leaders, as well as the main Section Leader.

You have found new and innovative ways of delivering Scouting, using new technology, bringing Scouting well and truly into the 21st Century. Some of the ideas and activities that you've come up with for meetings via Zoom (or whatever VC platform you've been using) during the various lockdowns have been truly inspirational. What we've read about and seen on the photos and video clips on Facebook have been really inspiring.

Just some of the activities done over Zoom that we been aware of included: -

- Some very well presented videos thanking the NHS / Clap for carers during the first lockdown
- VE day related activities
- Remembrance Day activities
- Cooking evenings
- Online battleships
- Escape rooms evenings
- Electronics projects
- Star gazing
- Virtual camps in back gardens or making dens indoors when pitching a tent wasn't an option
- Lots of badgework
- Community related projects

After many months we were allowed to go back to face to face Scouting, albeit in quite a restricted way. But this brought about other challenges as all the activities needed to be strictly socially distanced. Again Leaders found themselves thinking about how to modify activities which are so familiar to us and deliver them differently. There also was the small issue of putting together the Covid restart risk assessment to get the necessary approval. We are pleased that a sizable number of Troops successfully managed to get their approval and, judging by the number of activity forms that had been coming in over the past few months, plenty of face to face Scouting was taking place including hikes, wide games, activities at Frylands and water activities. Alas, just as we were returning to the swing of things we now find ourselves in yet another lockdown – who knows when this one will end!



One highlight of the past few months was that, in spite of all the difficulties of the past year, 2 Scouts from 17th Purley still managed to achieve their Chief Scouts Gold award, which is a massive achievement even in normal times. Congratulations to those 2 Scouts and apologies if there were others who also went on to achieve this but haven't been mentioned here. Really well done!

Another highlight has been the resurgence of one of the Troops. Before the first lockdown the 10th Croydon based at West Croydon was really struggling with just one Scout and facing the prospect of closure. However, since lockdown they have been revitalised with 2 new younger Leaders and now have around 15 eager new Scouts on their books with more wanting to join. They have completely bucked the trend and give us all hope for the future. Well done to Keira and Caitlin who have been

ably guided along the way by Neil and Kaye.

It will soon be census time again and it's very likely that our numbers will take quite a big hit. I would encourage all Troop Leaders to

THE SCOUT PROMISE

On my honour,
I promise that I will do my best
to do my duty to God and to The Queen,
to help other people
and to keep the Scout Law.



get in touch with (by phone if possible) any Scouts that you have not heard from for a while just to check whether they still want to belong – you never know that one phone call may reignite their enthusiasm for Scouting!

Coming up in February – the County Bake Off Challenge – more details soon.

Finally, can we say a huge thank you to all those involved in the running of the Troops across the District for keeping Scouting going, in spite of all the many challenges you have been facing.

Claire Shadbolt / Richard Carrau

District Scout Leader(s)

Email: scouts@croydonscouting.org.uk

EXPLORERS

Explorer Report

Croydon Explorers have been living up to our motto "being Prepared" most Units returning to offering a full F2F programme and yet still able to immediately swap to a virtual programme when Lockdown 2 struck – but offering an ever more inventive selection of virtual activities. Amongst the activities we have run are Custard Pie Catapults, Escape Rooms, Virtual Christmas Dinners, Making Animation films, Taskmaster Tasks, Casualty Simulation, Making Yule logs and Scouting house of Games. The only thing we have missed is camping.

We have continued to offer a full programme for Duke of Edinburgh training, we are noticing more interest as the Schools do not seem to be pushing this at the moment, they have bigger problems with delivering the core curriculum in such difficult circumstances. This give us a window of opportunity which we are fully focussed on. We will be able to train the candidates up with training expeditions planned for April/May and qualifying expeditions in the Summer.

In addition to DofE we have 2 Croydon Explorers taking part in the 2021 Explorer Belt which will be taking place in Luxembourg, Belgium and Germany boarder region. For those not in the know the Explorer belt is an expedition for teams of round 3-5 Explorers or Network members who have to survive for 10 days in a foreign country travelling at least 150Km. They will need to undertake a number of projects with a presentation to round it off. I wish the Croydon candidates every success.

Richard Goad

District Explorer Commissioner

Email: desc@croydonscouting.org.uk

Mobile Climbing Wall

Not operational during the current Covid-19 Pandemic.

Email: climbingwall@croydonscouting.org

network

Network Report

In regards to Network there is not much to report, we aren't allowed to meet at all as we don't come under the same rules as other Youth Sections so we have had to continue with monthly meetings on zoom. We have held a couple of zoom meetings in recent months and a few social media activities that members have joined in with, but most of the Network members are busy supporting family with shopping/child care, preparing for mocks / resits / exams etc.

The exec have got some activities they are working on for when we are able to meet again but they are keeping their plans fluid as the situation is ever changing.

Network members are finding things quite tricky in terms of a lot of them work in retail / leisure and so when venues open a number of them are working more hours than normal to try and make up for lost income, we obviously commend those that have been working over the pandemic in supermarkets and other essential retail areas.

Cari-ann Bailey

Network Commissioner

Email: croydon.network@blueyonder.co.uk

Youth Commissioner Report

We would like to take this opportunity to remind Groups that while Scouting cannot happen face-to-face, the virtual world is your oyster with a wide range of online activities that can be done to achieve badges for our young people.

The Youth Commissioner team would love to be invited to join on to some virtual meetings to see how everyone is getting on and what sort of activities different sections are running, as well as how the young people themselves are enjoying scouting virtually. In addition, we are available to answer questions you may have with regards to online scouting to the best of our abilities.

Croydon District Youth Commissioner Team

Email: yc@croydonscouting.org.uk

Bears Wood Camp Site

Over the past 12 months, as with all of us, it has been an unusual time. Whereas this time last year we were fully booked every weekend and the site was “ringing” with the sound of young people enjoying the great outdoors the site has been strangely quiet, save for once a week a small group of older people enjoying the great outdoors, but really missing all those young people!!

Although we want the site to be used for what it is intended, in a perverse sort of way we are trying hard to see all the positives that have arisen out of not having F2F scouting up at Bears Wood. Having zero footfall has enabled nature to work its wonders on the site with all the individual sites gradually returning to grassed areas as the “green stuff” has a chance to regenerate itself. There has been a small group of volunteers who have been beavering away on a weekly basis to tend to the hedges, mow the grass and trim the verges etc. The trees have had work done on them to keep them safe and in good health and this work obviously is on a continuous basis following an official tree survey. The sites are looking healthier than for many years. All the activities have had checks and unfortunately have had to be decommissioned due to health and safety concerns. The general consensus of opinion from the replies to the survey sent out by Dave Rixson earlier in the year was for the site to be returned to a woodland site with a few self-led activities available; this is what we will be aiming to achieve over the next 12 months.

The building has thrown up some surprises for us as we started to get things up to an acceptable standard. With electrical inspections, asbestos surveys, legionella checks, fire safety & emergency lighting inspections carried out we are now setting to work on various aspects that have arisen from them. The fire alarm system & emergency lighting have been upgraded, the main older part of the building is being totally rewired to bring it up to standard, there is no asbestos on site and a legionella's inspection and regular testing protocol have been implemented. There has been, and continues to be, a raft of redecoration taking place whilst we can take the opportunity of nobody on site to give the whole place a “facelift”.

When we came out of lockdown 1 a great deal of time and money was spent on getting the site “Covid” ready for being able to get back to F2F scouting. Everywhere indoors was given a deep clean, floors scrubbed, walls & ceilings washed down, toilets, basins and showers etc. scrubbed and disinfected – you name it, it was done!!! New hand sanitising stations were purchased and fitted, paper towel dispensers likewise, areas cordoned off and markings painted on the floor to help with social distancing and a one-way system in the car park implemented. Then we went into lockdown 2!!!! All was not lost; we came out of that with bookings for December and January only to go into Tier 4! The message is – **We are ready to go whenever the government allows us to** – so keep us in mind when you can get your YP out and about again and book an evening or a day at the weekend to bring them up here to get out in the open again.

Finally I must, on your behalf, say a huge thanks to a few people without whom all of this would not have been possible. They have given freely of their time and talents over the past year to help keep the place going and to help bring it back to where we want it to be. They are (in no particular order) Danny Curnyn, Steve French, Brian Young, Greg Cook, Simon Chapman, Nick Smith and Cam Borton.

Martin Greenwood
Chair of Bears Wood
Email: bearswood@croydonscouting.org.uk

District Safety Committee

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 email Tony Grogan who will supply you with a copy.

Please email: tonygrogan93@gmail.com.

Members of the Safety committee are still available to visit and update the recommendations (however we now respond 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:- See table of downloadable files available to support you and your Group / Unit.

<p>Safety resources are all downloadable from the District Website</p> <p>www.croydonscouting.org.uk</p>	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

Water Activities at Norwood Lake

Like most things the amount of water activities we were able to deliver at South Norwood Lake during 2020 was severely hampered by COVID. That said great efforts were made by both Croydon Youth & Schools Sailing Association (CYSSA) and Croydon Sailing Club (CSC) to make the boat park and kit COVID safe and put COVID protocols in place. These were approved by District very promptly. This allowed us to run sessions for over 300 youngsters, kayaking and dinghy sailing, from the following Groups:

7/12th Croydon, 9th Purley, 10th Croydon, 16th Purley, 23rd Croydon, 39th Croydon, 61st Croydon, 1st Crystal Palace and Panthers ESU. Apologies if you attended and we've missed your Group off.

The COVID grant was invested new kit and we now have a fleet of new and nearly new kayaks at South Norwood Lake.

Liam Campbell (RIP) also fundraised monies to purchase a brand new Bellboat and all the associated kit meaning that we will be offering bellboating as an additional option. As soon as legally possible we will launch the new bellboat, all 9 metres long, and it will be crewed by 10 of Liam's ex Cubs. Details to follow as soon as we have them.



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

Training Report

Even with no face-to-face Scouting, for the last 9 months, it has still been very busy in training circles, with courses being run online, changes to the ongoing learning expiry timescales, new training requirements for sectional assistants and executive members and new stricter rules regarding the timescales to complete getting started and woodbadges.

(i). Training Courses 2021

With no f2f scouting for the foreseeable future the first few training courses of next year will be online. The intention is to go back to f2f as soon as possible so only a few courses are confirmed as follows:

- 13th January – Module 7 – Scouting for All
- 2nd February – Module 14 – Supporting Young People
- 28th February – Module 12 – Programme Planning

Booking is via the GLSW website [Adult Training | Greater London South West \(glsWSCOUTS.org.uk\)](http://Adult Training | Greater London South West (glsWSCOUTS.org.uk))

As soon as other courses are confirmed I will advertise in the usual way.

(ii). Training Completion Timescales

As is already known, the getting started timescale completion is 5 months, and for woodbadges 3 years. Over the latter part of this year this has been more strictly enforced by the Scout Association, resulting in me sending out emails to leaders and GSLs chasing/requesting updates.

In early 2021 I will be emailing out to all leaders and GSLs whose 3-year timescale has finished, for an update (i.e., all leaders who started in 2017 or earlier). Please do take notice if you get an email and act accordingly, as from September the new suspension rules come in, where leaders could be suspended, and roles closed.

(iii). Getting Started – Full Appointments

Congratulations to the 14 new leaders who have completed the getting started process, since April and have full appointments (a full list is detailed below). There are a further 9 who have completed the training but not been to appointments yet, 6 of which are due to not having complete references, and 6 who have to do both. Hopefully, all those will become full appointments in the first few months of 2021.

(iv). Woodbadges

Congratulations to the 14 leaders who have completed their woodbadges since April (a full list is detailed below). There are still over 100 leaders going through the training process so there will hopefully be a lot more woodbadges completed in 2021.

Finally, a big thank you to the 7 training advisors for all their support during the year, and all the district team. Here is to a more "normal" 2021 and getting back to f2f training as soon as possible.

Jon Slade (District Training Manager/ADC Adult Support)

Email: jonslade@blueyonder.co.uk

Telephone: 020 8680 2258

Getting Starting Training

Lauren Wilsdon (ABSL) 21st Purley / Molly Sebire (ABSL) 21st Purley / Stephen Woodrow (ACSL) 1st Crystal Palace
Kerry Baker (BSL) 6th Croydon / Stephen Gadsby (CSL) 18th Purley / David Harewood (ABSL) 18th Purley
Ellie Lawson (ABSL) 18th Purley / Nighat Qureishi (ASL) 30th Purley / Alan Wickenden (ASL) 5th S & A
Paula O'Donnell (ABSL) 1st Crystal Palace / Assim Khokhar (GSL) 30th Purley / Heather Peters (GSL) 61st Croydon
Sazeda Alam (ACSL) 30th Purley / Riem Ali Nasr (ASL) 30th Purley

Completed Woodbadges

Simon Jackson (GSL) 17th Purley / Andrea Howlett (SL) 7/12th Croydon / Danny Curnyn (GSL) 6th Croydon
Marie Anderson-Cottee (ACSL) 1st Crystal Palace / Saf Khokhar (CSL) 30th Purley / Donna Hardcastle (ACSL) 29th Purley
Kevin Davies (ABSL) 5th S & A / Rachael Dominguez (BSL) 3rd Croydon / Louise Green (ABSL) 5th S & A
Claire Bolingbroke (ACSL) 29th Purley / Darren Latter (SL) 44th Croydon / Colin Jones (ASL) 25th Purley
Gemma Hannon (CSL) 29th Purley / Jonathan Orr (ASL) 1st Coulsdon

Obituary – Liam Campbell

(8th June 1964 – 1st November 2020)

Liam was a truly gifted, multi-talented individual. Good academically, an excellent all-round sportsman a talented harmonica player and a creative genius. Amongst his many talents he was a superb wordsmith, just ask anyone who lost to him at Scrabble how good he was. He was a larger than life character, a fabulous story teller with a heart of gold and a well-developed sense of fairness and social justice. Whilst never being financially rich he was always incredibly generous with his time and would always help others. In the words of some of his Scouting peers he was the world's most loveable rogue.

Liam joined 2nd Croydon Scout Cubs in 1972, moving onto Scouts and Venture Scouts. It was here that he was introduced to the great outdoors, camping and hill walking in the Peak District, Lake District, Snowdonia, Scotland and Ireland. Canoeing, yes despite his later protestations that he hated boats he was an accomplished paddler. Whilst on holiday with the Morris family in the Wye Valley, he and Chris, also a Cub at 1st Crystal palace, were put onto the River Wye at Kerne Bridge with the simple instruction, "see you in Monmouth in 5 hours".

He was always grateful that he had some brilliant leaders who gave him opportunities that he wouldn't have otherwise had and years later he would provide similar opportunities for hundreds of local youngsters. Perhaps his most amazing Scouting achievement as a Venture Scout was his successful ice climb ascent of a glacier as part of his Queens Scout Award. 5 days of climbing, pitching a suspended tent on the ice face and trying to sleep in it. He told the story of listening to the glacier groaning and creaking brilliantly and when asked if he ever worried about the tent falling his response was "if I'm asleep I won't know much about it".

Liam reconnected with 1st Crystal Palace in September 2007 when the Group was put on notice of closure. Together he and Pat transformed the Group, running 2 Cub sections and covering the Group Scout Leader and Assistant Group Scout Leader roles between them. Liam definitely rose to the challenge and years later local youngsters who started their Scouting journey with Liam as their first Leader attended the World Jamborees in 2015 and 2019 and also volunteered in The Gambia in 2016 and 2019. Liam also took an active role within District and as a District Cub Scout Leader he helped the District Cub team plan and deliver some excellent District Events. He was also Assistant District Commissioner Group support and many Groups profited from his help, enthusiasm and input.

Together Liam and Pat ran many camps. Their camps were legendary and Liam's cooking skills were tested, who else but Liam would think of yet alone cook a Sunday roast dinner for 72 kids at Pinewood! Just how big a positive impact they made is best described by the youngsters and their parents in the message they sent to Pat:

"Hi, it's been some time since we've spoken, hope you're ok and sorry to hear about Liam. You two have always been in my prayers and I appreciate you both as role models in my life while I was growing up."

"You were both a huge part of my boy's childhoods and for so many other young people as well. Thank you both for all the happy Scouting days"

Liam and Pat's contribution was recognised locally by Croydon Council and Croydon Scout District, Nationally by Bear Grylls and even had royal approval.

When Prince Charles and Camilla visited Croydon in the aftermath of the Croydon riots Liam was there resplendent in his Scout Leaders uniform to meet them. He was genuinely impressed by "Chas and Cams" as he called them, but he never did reveal whether he had asked if he could have their FA Cup Final tickets for the following season.

Liam will be missed but he definitely won't be forgotten. His last unselfish act was to raise over £7,500 for a Bellboat which is now built and as soon as legally allowed this will be launched at South Norwood Lake and crewed by youngsters who were his Cubs.

He will also be remembered at Pinewood with a memorial bench overlooking the lake with the simple inscription;

"Liam Campbell – a true Scouter and loveable rogue".



Obituary – Chippie Wood

(6th September 1926 – 8th November 2020)



It's with great sadness, but very fond memories, that we report the passing of Don 'Chippie' Wood after a stay in hospital following a stroke in October. In these strange times we haven't all been able to join together to remember him as we normally would do when one of us has 'gone home', and so wanted to share our memories, and some of Chippie's own.

Our abiding memories of Chippie are of the seriousness in which he took our stewardship of nature at Pinewood, the wicked twinkle in his eye when he commented about my cake making and the quite literal warmth at committee meetings when he had taken the bus and walked some miles to get the heating on in good time for us. And anyone who was present couldn't fail to recall his antics at District Camp in 2000.

Some have described him as 'a lovely man' and 'a true gent' but as one Croydon Scouter said, Chippie 'was one of the old school who never lost sight of what Scouting is about or who it's for'.

Over the years Chippie's service was marked by the Medal of Merit, the Silver Acorn and the Silver Wolf. His most recent award was for 70 years service but his Scouting journey began before that, in 1935 when he was enrolled as a cub at the 35th Croydon (George Street Congregational). In 1937 he spent three months in an isolation hospital while suffering from Scarlet Fever; on the day he was due to go home he caught it again and had to stay! In 1938 he moved up to Scouts under Scout Master Reg Potter, who led the Scouts in service at Mayday Hospital during the Second World War.



Chippie did his bit as an auxiliary, as we remembered at a commemorative service at the now Croydon University Hospital's chapel in 2015, but not until he had returned from being evacuated twice, first to his grandparents in Dorset, with his sister Cora and the dog (Spot) and second to Devon with Lanfranc School. On hearing about the renovation of Lanfranc in 2015 Chippie commented that it had 'only just been rebuilt' (in 1956!).

After leaving school in 1941 Chippie began work learning his skills as a draughtsman in a city firm, until December 1944 when he was called up. Having been a cadet he wanted to join the Navy, but it was full so he joined the Royal Signals (as his dad had in the First World War). After training in Whitby he was sent to Delhi where he joined the Delhi Services Rover Scout Crew as soon as he could. In 1947 he became Assistant Scoutmaster at the 103rd Delhi Troop, receiving his warrant signed by Earl Mountbatten of Burma, the last Viceroy of India and first governor-general of independent India, and at that time the Chief Scout of India.



Chippie had lots of tales to tell of this time, including the 'chokka dahs' who looked after District Campsites and would put up the tents and get out the pans for you before you arrived! He was eligible to come home in the winter of 1947 but stayed in India because he was enjoying it and 'after all '47 was a damned cold winter back in England'. Not one to miss an opportunity, with a few days leave he and a friend cycled from Delhi to Agra to see the Taj Mahal taking beautiful photos and keeping equally beautiful notes.

In 1948 Chippie made the three week sea journey home being de-mobbed in 1949. He made the most of his leave before returning to work, participating in several camps including his first at Bears Wood,

beginning his long connection with the Croydon District sites. He also became Assistant Scout Leader at the 35th Croydon, becoming Scout leader in 1950. His favourite activity was pioneering, once building a platform 30ft up a tree and pitching a tent on it. In the summer of 1949 Chippie attended the Rover Moot in Norway and can be seen in his Sea Cadet uniform outside the Endeavour in a photo found in the 67th Croydon archives. In 1952 he accompanied other Eastern Croydon Scouts to Kandersteg.



In the late 1950s Chippie became warden at Bears Wood and a District Scout Leader, joining the BP Guild in 1961, whose membership he continued into Fellowship and Active Support. Chippie's job, with British Petroleum, took him far afield and he found himself helping at a Scout Troop in Norway while living there for a few months (and taking a short cut to the office every morning across a frozen lake). When in the Middle East he couldn't Scout, but still went camping.

When at home, Chippie continued his involvement with the Scout section, being Scout Leader at the 11th Wallington (near home) in the early 1980s as well as ADC Scouts in Eastern Croydon from 1987 to 1992 and more recently President of the 3rd Beddington. He's well remembered by many for being one of the leaders at annual Eastern Croydon Easter Expeditions to places like Snowdonia or Kielder (Northumberland).

Bears Wood and Pinewood meanwhile were for many years managed together by the same committee under Croydon and District. In 1981 Purley District took over Bears Wood; Chippie went to Pinewood and has been on the management committee continuously since then. Many of us involved with Pinewood, whether as committee members, service crew, Venture or Explorer Scouts or hirers remember Chippie's detailed knowledge and care of the woods, as well as every individual item on the premises. He rarely missed a meeting, unless he and Pat were on one of their fantastic trips to New Zealand, or he had booked one of his solo walking holidays following the Pilgrims Way, South Coast path or similar. In recent years we've enjoyed his company and chatter at our social events, including a dinner out to celebrate his 90th birthday. His time in India shone through, as he complained that the curry wasn't hot enough.



Scouting was of course only a part of who Chippie was, and he leaves his wife Pat, who many of you will remember particularly with a tea towel in the kitchen at Pinewood and with whom he recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary, his sons Marc and David, and his granddaughters. I knew he loved walking, cycling and caving but only learnt recently that he was also awarded the Queens Golden Jubilee Medal for services to SECRO (South Eastern Cave Rescue Organisation).

At Pinewood we plan to remember Chippie in our new orchard, an 'edible legacy', and will perhaps place a single bench seat amongst the trees, as a nod to the solitude which he appreciated in the woods and on his walks and which quite possibly gave him the patience to deal with us all!



The family thank you for attending and we appreciate your kind messages of condolence.

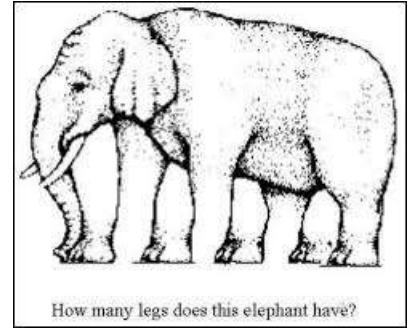
If you so wish, donations in Don's memory could be made to
The Scout Association.

Online:
[Scouts.org.uk/about-us/support-scouts/donate](https://scouts.org.uk/about-us/support-scouts/donate)

Perception

PERCEPTION - THE ALL SEEING EYE

As we turn over the calendar and welcome in the New Year it is very clear that the World and the UK are still battling with the Covid-19 Pandemic. 2020 will be long remembered for all the wrong reasons - and whilst now there is light in the tunnel and new vaccines are being rolled out it will take many more months before we can even hope to settle into what will become the 'new normal'. Closer to home with Scouting we are struggling to maintain a membership remotely once again offering virtual Scouting and this certainly has been a challenge for some of our Leaders. Please remember that Scouting is a highly regarded organization essential to the future success and development of young people in our communities.



It is therefore vital that despite once again being behind closed doors, we make as much noise as we can using whatever means we can to tell everyone local that Scouting is still open, still as strong as ever and welcoming to ALL members. Whilst we are concerned about our membership numbers when we return, a majority of other organisations will be in exactly the same boat (or worse) and therefore this could provide a great recruitment opportunity for local organisations who are well known, established and who in their local communities are already recognised and respected as providing essential lifeskills to young people - **SCOUTING**

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 initiative 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 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

ACC – Perception (GLSW)

Chair – District PR Committee

Email: perception@glswscouts.org.uk

Email: pr@croydonscouting.org.uk

#SkillsForLife

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

**One District
One Movement
One World
#SkillsForLife**



#SkillsForLife

**Croydon Scouting putting the 'OUT'
back into Scouting**

**But until then, we will carry on
'Indoors' and 'Face to Face' when
we can, to keep Scouting going!**

A selection of pictures and reports from around the District during the Covid-19 Pandemic.



16th Purley Scouts and Beavers took part in our local church online advent calendar called ADVENTure. Usually help in peoples front gardens they resorted to an online approach for safeguarding and social distancing. With the church asking for volunteers to record some short videos we stepped up to help and gave our Scouts and Beavers the opportunity to shine on camera and gaining a bit towards badges too. The theme was Christmas around the world with each day representing a different country. The Scouts did a video on Australia and the Beavers did a video on Spain.



16th Purley Beavers were sad that due to the Remembrance Service at our local church, out their hand on green card and created this from all out the 16th Scouts to show our war. The Church were very impressed as were



Covid restrictions they could not attend so we started early and each Beaver cut Poppy's from egg carton boxes. We laid gratitude to those who fought in the several local members of the public too.

Gemma Webb
16th Purley Beavers Leader.

Since 2009 The Pinewood Seahorses ESU have celebrated in style at the Christmas meal weekend! Normally this is a weekend of great fun, games and the coming together of all member of the Explorer Unit with part family and friends.

This year, obviously needed to be rethought and still wanting to mark this special occasion. So while we can't come together to have our Christmas dinner, they decided to give a Christmas dinner to those who otherwise wouldn't have one and asked all members to the donate they normally charge to Crisis, through a special JustGiving page set up for this.

Every little helps and as we know Scouts always help others !





A note from the Scout Association



67th Croydon Group HQ – Christmas Cheer !



Croham Valley Explorers enjoying an evening of tactical skills – the Ultimate Tower Elasticband Dodge (before lockdown 3)



30th Purley (Masjid) Scout Group Beavers and Cubs remembrance Day Activities



Despite the site being closed for use, we still need to carry out essential maintenance at the Pinewood Scout Centre and above is a picture of the completed tomahawk target throwing area, with stands with membraned frontage.



We were delighted to have had a good turnout from 7th Purley Beavers, Cubs and Scouts for the Remembrance Day Service run by All Saints Church on Zoom this morning.

Between the Group us we did all the readings, prayers and poems.

Oskar played the bugle, supported by his brothers carrying the flags.

A very moving service and very well received in the community, including by care home residents watching.

Russell Priestley
(Asst GSL)

Scouts at 19th Purley as part of one of their regular zoom meeting activities was to make a model or picture from recycling and on the theme of Scouting.

A very impressive and well thought out image here of a typical camping scene with a campfire and someone attending to their tent.

This image hopefully brings back some fond memories.

Dawn Lockyer
(Scout Leader)



7/12th Croydon Cubs proudly displaying the poppies they made at one of their Zoom sessions in November.

Even closed for face to face Scouting our Leaders and helpers try to carry out and run as 'near normal' programmes for our younger members of Croydon Scouting.

District PR Committee



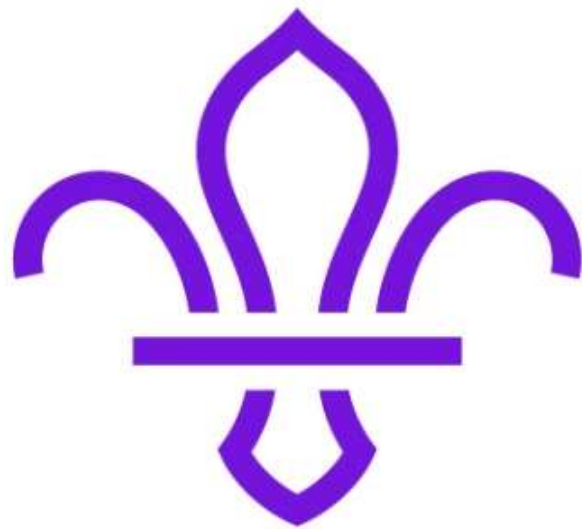
District Website:
www.croydonscouting.org.uk

County Website:
www.glsWSCouts.org.uk

Headquarters Website:
www.scouts.org.uk

Croydon Scouting provides #SkillsForLife

#SkillsForLife



Scouts

Croydon Scouting

One District One Movement