



ISSUE 33

# THE



# RAM



DATE: August 2013

## NEWSLETTER OF BANSTEAD SCOUTS

### Tickett Talk

What a busy summer it has been so far! Within the first two weeks of the holidays, nine camps had already taken place in the District. In the last scouting year, there were over 1600 nights spent away – what an amazing achievement!

This is the time of the year that I review the training. Please ensure that your 1<sup>st</sup> Response, Safeguarding and Safety training are all up to date – the GSLs have a list. If you are still underway with your Wood Badge training, this might be a good time to get some validations done. Get in touch with your Training Adviser and have your good work recognised!

As we look forward to the new Scouting year, there is a lot to be excited about. In September, our new Explorer Unit will open, based at Tattenhams HQ. Later in the year, the Scout section has the amazing Scoutabout to look forward to. All of the other sections have great activities planned as well as the great activities that are run on a weekly basis. Look out for details of our new archery and shooting competitions!

Thank you for all you do for your groups and our young people. Here's to a great new Scouting year!

Alistair Tickett (District Commissioner)

put himself forward to run a new Explorers unit from October, based at our HQ. The Unit is currently unnamed; therefore Ali is looking for a name that doesn't start with B or T. How does 'Derby District Explorers' sound? (DDE).

We have now shared our HQ with Little Jax Play Group for the past 10 months. This has not only provided welcome income to the Group but also helped improve and maintain our building and grounds. We have now cleared and developed plans for the redevelopment of our 'Top hut' building which will be used by the new Explorer unit.

Our Group's AGM was held in May as part of a Group Family Fun evening with BBQ at our HQ. The format of supplying free food and drink seems to work well with our parents, as we were presently surprised by the number of families who attended and enjoyed themselves.

### 1st Tattenhams (St Marks)

The January 2013 Census showed an increase in our membership numbers across all sections especially in Cubs and then with a number moving on to Scouts at the start of the second half of 2013 we now have a healthy size Troop.

With the increasing demand for Explorer places from across the District, Andy Radford (our assistant Scout Leader) has

*Banstead District Scout Council*

*President Mrs Diana Bowes*

*Registered Charity Number 1036740*



We are now in the final planning stages of our first Summer Camp for Scouts and Cubs for a number of years. This will take place at Polyapes Scout Campsite at the end of July.



## Beavers

In November last year, our Beavers went to Duxford Air Museum as part of their Air activity badge.

The Beavers were fascinated by the amount of aeroplanes on display and especially enjoyed going on Concorde and seeing the US Back Bird spy plane. The Beavers also managed to visit the Tank museum at the same time.



In February this year, our Beavers visited the Epsom Fire station as part of their safety badge and friendship challenge badge. They had great fun, being shown around the Station, being shown the equipment for cutting people out of cars and sitting in the fire engine, plus they all had a go with the water hose, but they had to make do with watching the professionals using the fire pole!



Charlotte Stephen has joined as an assistant Beaver leader, which has also strengthened our group's leadership team.

## Cubs

In February this year, our Cubs completed their science badge, by each six building their own 'Jigger bugs' using a toothbrush head, asymmetric motor, battery and card, all held together by tape. The Jigger bugs then took part in linear races, but as their directional control was non-existent, the races were changed to see which one could exit a circular area from the middle first.



Also as part of science badge the Cubs built Tent Light using LED's and plastic bottles.

We are proud that we have continued to see Chief Scouts Awards Silvers being achieved in the Cub section with the most recent being presented during our AGM in May.



## Scouts

In March this year, our Scouts followed our Beavers in a visit to Epsom Fire station to reinforce their understanding of Fire safety in the Home. Once again the Fire Fighters were very welcoming and informative.

At the end of May this year, our Scouts were joined by Explorers and took part in a Community week activity as part the 'Banish the Balsam' campaign to rescue Banstead Woods from the invasion of the non-native plant Himalayan Balsam. We met with Marion Davis and went into the woods for a number of hours to clear areas already badly affected. Despite wearing gloves we all experienced the full effect of stinging nettles that the Balsam appears to share habitat with!



## 1st Walton on the Hill New Scout & Guide HQ in Walton on the Hill



In 2007 we celebrated 100 years of Scouting and 2010 was the Centenary year for Girlguiding. Both movements are well supported in Walton-on-the-Hill, providing full and varied programmes of activities and events for the young people, developing their skills and introducing new ones. There are plenty of challenges along the way and much adventure.

After many years of fundraising, we are delighted with our new headquarters. The HQ was officially opened on 2<sup>nd</sup> March by John Trevor –Williams, who's involvement in Scouting spans over eighty years. Several of the Rover Scouts and Guides that helped build the original hall in the 1950's returned to meet old friend and relay their stories to the younger members. Over 100 guests visited, from the local community to celebrate the occasion.

Another busy year for the Beavers of Walton on the Hill! The continuing renovation of our hut meant that meetings had to be relocated. We also had to switch the day and time of our meeting which resulted in the loss of some Beavers but the gain of others. Through it all, we still had fun.

## Beavers

In September, we had a fantastic visit from Ray Churcher of the Blue Cross who taught us how to interact properly with dogs we don't know. This led to work on our animal friend badge.

In October, we carved pumpkins to make jack o' lanterns. We also explored the Jubilee Woodland and took advantage of the dark skies for a night walk through the woods.

Spooky! We also learned the simple but yummy recipe for rice crispy treats!

The second half of the autumn term was devoted to our own version of the Pinewood Derby, a huge event in American Scouting. Each Beaver received a kit with a wooden wedge, two axles and four wheels. Designs were drawn, wedges were modified and sanded smooth, and finally, the cars were painted. The results were some cool wheels. The cars were finished just in time for our Christmas Party at which we again made an amazing gingerbread house. Unfortunately, it didn't last long because we ate it all up! Our first task in January was to race our Pinewood Derby Cars and taste some Italian treats of Pandoro and Panettone.

At the end of January, our new hut was completed and ready for us! We celebrated by having a pyjama party with lots of games. For the remainder of the term, we worked on our Promise Challenge and wrote a lovely prayer to be read at our meetings. In February, we put together a crazy relay with elements of Chinese New Year, Pancake Day and Valentine's Day and in March, we made bracelets and cards for Mothers' Day. We also learned about food colouring, how a circuit works and how to build with Meccano.

Just before Easter, our Beavers braved freezing rain to hunt and toss eggs.

As many of our Beavers have fulfilled badge requirements, we have tried some new things this term. We made rollercoasters, recorded and edited movies and prepared for a pretend climb of Mount Everest.

It has been great fun. Our plans for the remainder of the school year are to get outside as much as possible, packing a picnic and learning to fly a kite, setting up a scavenger hunt, building a tent and making s'mores, and visiting the adventure playground at Box Hill.

Fingers crossed for sunny weather!

## Cubs

This past year has been a very busy year for Walton cubs, between weekly meetings, church parades, raising money for the new hut, badge work, the district bowling competition and camp, not to mention preparing for the May pageant there has been very little time for rest.

The highlights of this year have been a camp fire at Park Farm organized by our young leader and the district camp which 6 of our cubs thoroughly enjoyed and also were able to earn the outdoor challenge badge because of it.

We had a competition where each cub designed their very own badge which needed to have requirements and also the actual badge itself. The winner was the food badge which entailed cubs eating different foods blind folded and then guessing what the food was. The winning badge was actually made and each cub got their own food badge. This was actually one of the cub's ideas and was very successful.

During the winter and autumn term each six was given a dedicated night to plan and run

an evening. The only guideline was that there had to be something educational in the evening as well as games. Some of the highlights of these evenings has been a Mexican night where the cubs ate Mexican food and learnt how to say the promise in Spanish. We have also had a stalking and tracking night run by the cubs amongst other things.

The cubs have also completed a number of challenge badges over the last year, this has led to our first chief scout silver award in a number of years and means that some of the older cubs are not far off from getting theirs in the not too distant future.

One of the challenge badges was the creative challenge badges which included a problem solving night. During the evening the cubs made towers from marshmallows and spaghetti as well as toothpicks and chewy sweets. There were competitions to see who could build the tallest and most stable tower and the cubs learnt some principals that will hopefully help them with pioneering later on.

We hope to continue with a packed and fun filled year ahead.



## Scouts

### 1st Walton-on-the-Hill Scout Troop

At the beginning of November 2012, Paul Needham (ASL) took over the running of the Troop with support from Jessica (GSL). Winter sports featured with Ice skating at Hampton Court Palace in December and Skiing at the snow run at Hemel Hempstead for the Snow Sports activity badge in February. A photographer friend of Paul's took the scouts through the stills photography badge and one scout, who emerged as very skilled, was appointed Troop photographer. At the Remembrance Day Church Parade at St Peter's Church, a scout read a poem he had written at school which was a poignant reminder of our thoughts on the day.

In January, the scouts started the 6-week Fitness Challenge, training themselves with ten different exercises to show an improvement over the 6 week period. Paul and a PADI instructor took a group of scouts snorkelling and SCUBA diving in the Banstead swimming pool during the February half-term. The scouts practiced their pioneering knots by making chariots from poles and holding inter-patrol races. At the County Cyclo Cross competition in March, two brothers won the Gold medal for the Under-13 and the Silver medal for the under-12 (even though he was actually Under-11).

In preparation for the camping season, a variety of camping skills were introduced and practiced and these were further honed at the Boy's Own Camp held at Bentley Copse in June. Working in pairs, the boys planned their menu for the weekend and brought the food with them. They also chose the site activities of Pedal Go-karting and Archery. The group was small but this gave them a chance to learn how to build a fire and cook on it as well as on gas rings, producing

scrambled eggs, sausages, meatballs and stir fry. The Scouts were ably assisted in learning how to put up and strike tents, wash up and clear away by two of our Young Leaders who came with us. Having 'free time' to plan their own wide games roaming throughout the woodland of the Scout campsite was a big plus for them all. The scouts are looking forward to the Summer Camp to be held at Broadstone Warren Scout Campsite at the end of July.

### **Walton- Young Leaders**

Four Walton Scouts have left the Troop to become Young Leaders. As well as helping at Scout meetings, three of them are helping at the meetings of the St Margaret's Scout Troop at The Children's Trust and one of the three has also been helping at both Beaver and Cub meetings. Walton Group is currently short of adult leaders and the assistance of the Young Leaders has made a huge difference to their ability to run meetings for the various sections.

All four are attending the Young leader training course organised by Phil Anthony. The YLs are particularly helpful at running games and helping new section members. When a section splits into patrols/sixes/lodges to do badge work, the YLs are capable of leading one group in the activity as working in small groups is usually a more efficient way of teaching something new. The assistance of two YLs at the recent Boy's Own Camp for the Scout Troop was much appreciated.

### **St Margaret's Scout Troop**

The scouts from the Children's Trust are in their teens and early twenties and have multiple disabilities and complex health needs usually arriving in wheelchairs. Meetings are held in the Trust's School of Profound Education with Scout leaders and

Young Leaders assisted by a member of the school teaching staff.

We were only able to hold 4 meetings during the autumn term 2012 and one meeting during the spring term 2013. Several of the meetings were cancelled due to lack of leaders and helpers to run them. In spite of that we celebrated the anniversary of the arrival of Cleopatra's needle in London as a gift from Egypt by using recycled items to make cardboard needles and decorate them with hieroglyphs. Neil Armstrong's moon landing was remembered by making toy rockets take off by pressing an air pump and by creating various designs of paper plane which were raced to see which design flew the longest distance. Other activities included autumn planting of hyacinth bulbs for spring flowering and winter feeding of birds with seeds and fat.

At the beginning of the summer term, we received a great boost in the numbers of helpers with the addition of Scout Mum Janice who was already a volunteer within the school and two additional Young Leaders who had come from Walton Scout Troop. The new Young Leaders were given wheelchair training on how to care for the scouts and their transport and have all been learning how to communicate in a situation where non-verbal communication for the scouts is the order of the day.

To celebrate St George's Day in April, the scouts each made a cardboard model of St George with foil armour and a white tabard showing his red cross. The Troop then paraded along the covered ways, back to their houses headed by the Union flag carried by a Young Leader and the St Margaret's Scout Flag carried by an SMS Scout.

The traditional activity of Well Dressing during the month of May was the theme for our giant collage, the well was decorated

with a wide variety of ribbons and flowers made from tissue paper. The District Handbells were used in our musical evening. They are built like giant tuning forks and are easy to work. Traditional songs such as Campfire's Burning and Oranges and Lemons were played. June is known locally for the Derby and some creative hobby horses were made with manes of wool.

At our next meeting we will be putting up a tent and singing campfire songs and following that, holding a Games evening. Now that we have three adults and three young leaders, we hope not to have to cancel any meetings and we are looking forward to a Walton Scout joining the team soon.

## **Dates for your Diary**

### **September**

5<sup>th</sup> – District Executive  
15<sup>th</sup>-Countryside Day Banstead Woods  
16<sup>th</sup> - Cub Team meeting  
26<sup>th</sup> – District Team meeting

### **October**

2<sup>nd</sup> – Beaver Team meeting  
5<sup>th</sup> – District Scout Cooking  
Competition  
9<sup>th</sup> – District Admin Conference  
13<sup>th</sup> District Cub Cooking Competition  
17<sup>th</sup> – Young Leader training  
19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> – JOTA/JOTI

### **November**

10<sup>th</sup> – Remembrance parades  
17<sup>th</sup> – District Cub Bowling Competition

### **December**

2<sup>nd</sup> – GSL's meeting

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