



ISSUE 29

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DATE: October 2012

## NEWSLETTER OF BANSTEAD SCOUTS

### Tickett Talk

It has been a strange summer – drought, rain, sun, wind, sun again! What has been consistent is the quality of scouting and the camps provided over the summer months. I would like to do a Nights Away special for 2012 so please send a picture and a one sentence summary of a special moment from your camp. Don't forget to say where the camp was.

In the coming months, this is the time to get your head round using the Online Scout Manager software that we have all been discussing. It is hoped that all sections will be using it by next year. I will run a training session in the autumn term.

1<sup>st</sup> Response courses are also available – your GSLs have details and they are on the District website.

There is also a safeguarding course that needs to be done (20<sup>th</sup> Oct) if you have not done any formal safeguarding training in the last 5 years. More details on their way. Other dates will be arranged too.

## 1<sup>st</sup> Woodmansterne

### Beavers

Over the last year our numbers have fluctuated we currently have 15 beavers. 5 Beavers have moved on to cubs and we have welcomed 11 new Beavers to the colony.

During the past year as a colony we have taken part in a variety of activities, which count towards the Beaver Scout Challenge Badges. The Beaver Scouts attain these through regular attendance at colony meetings and other events, as the requirements for the badges are covered through the balanced programme.

We attended the Banstead District St Georges Day Parade, and took part in the Woodmansterne May Queen Parade. A few Beavers attend our regular Church Parades at St Peter's Church.

Last winter whilst the HQ was being refurbished, we held a few meetings at Woodmansterne Sports

*Banstead District Scout Council  
President Mrs Diana Bowes  
Registered Charity Number 1036740*

Club, and we are grateful for their hospitality.

Over the past year Beavers have attained their Air activities & Emergency aid badge. We learnt to make simple maps, had a torchlight hike, went bowling, & made rain sticks. Another Bring a Friend night was very successful. We had an indoor picnic, went climbing and held our own Beaver Balloon Olympics.

### Cubs

Over the past year the Cub Scout Pack has maintained around 30 Cubs attending on a regular basis. Regular meetings on Wednesdays have included a varied programme from swimming, tree surveys, fire lighting and hikes.

We have been able to really celebrate and share these activities with our website up and running earlier this year, a wonderful asset to the whole group.

These regular meetings have allowed the cubs to achieve a number of challenge badges taking them well on their way towards a Silver Award, the highest award Cub Scouts can achieve.

We had our summer camp over the Jubilee week at Bentley Copse, Shere, with 22 cubs for an action-packed week. Activities on site included Crate Challenge, Skittle Alley, Air Rifle shooting, Archery, Knots, Climbing, and more. Cubs off-site visits included a cruise on the Wey Navigation canal in an open boat just for ourselves, and a day at Amberley Chalk Pit Museum. On the Jubilee day the cubs hiked into Shere where we caused some inconvenience to the residents with our rendezvous car with the picnic lunch unfortunately parked in the road of their street party! We celebrated ourselves over the week with two birthdays and a special Jubilee meal, plenty of cake over the week. With all of that going in it is not surprising the Cubs achieved their Outdoor Challenge badges, as well as their Campers badge. 'Cub of Camp' was Tom Annetts. With two girls' tents this year the standard of tidiness was quite competitive but the boys won tent of the week so well done the boys!



In the beginning of July most cubs attended the District Funday with numerous activities at Park Farm and our Scout HQ. Cubs also had a good display at the May Fair in Woodmansterne with the cubs carrying the May Pole to the village green for the May Pole dancing by the Brownies.

This exciting and achieving programme has been possible with the support of leaders Judith, Sarah and the many parent helpers who attend regularly: Edward Shepperd, Phil Sanders, Greg Wales, and not forgetting the other parents who help out on occasions and have provided some of the activities over the past year. Their time and efforts have benefited all of the cubs, and this wouldn't have been possible without their contribution.

Let the coming year be as exciting and as much fun as this one!

## Scouts

The Scout Troop ended the year with our numbers just above 30, a new record. Increased numbers requires additional help and we will be looking for a few extra parents to help out on an occasional basis. Thank you to Geoff Curnow who recently started to help on troop nights and also survived a stint on summer camp!

Summer camp was held at Ferny Crofts in the New Forest and was attended by 18 Scouts, a maximum limit set this year, principally due to uncertainties regarding leader availability but also due to transport and kit limitations. Due to this year's interest we will be looking to have more spaces available next year. We were lucky with the weather which cleared up pretty much as we arrived and stayed dry for the week. A good time was had by all, the highlights being Scout cooking, high ropes, Brownsea Island and the volleyball competition.

We spent around three months at Park Farm during the refurbishment including several sessions on the climbing wall, night hikes in the woods and a trip to Banstead pool. We were glad to return in January but it took another four months to fully unpack and resume normal service!

## HQ Refurbishment

Anybody from Scouting in Banstead District that has had cause to visit the 1<sup>st</sup> Woodmansterne Scout Group in recent years may be forgiven for being less than impressed with the state of the building. However, it is fair to point out that the wooden building was erected on the site in 1963, 47 years

ago. The building was second hand then. However with much help from leaders, parents and friends at the time the site was cleared, levelled, foundations dug and the building erected. The building has given good service but after so many years needed refurbishing.

A number of years ago unfortunately the group lost its' Assistant Group Scout Leader Peter Flower at a comparatively young age. A sum of money was left to the group in Peter's will and the Exec Committee of the time made a decision to restrict its use to the future redevelopment of the Headquarters. This was by no means a unanimous decision but the majority prevailed. There were some alternative suggestions for use of the money but these were felt to be too short term and not in the best interests of the group. Over the years the group continued to raise money and it was decided to apply to the Lottery Fund for assistance with a rebuild. This application was unsuccessful and it was realised that the only option was refurbishment of the existing structure.

Time had dragged on over the matter and it was only when our insurance company began to show unhappiness with the electrical system that this proved to be the catalyst for the refurbishment.



We sought three tenders from building companies and selected the one that we could best afford, Edward Shepperd of Woodmansterne. His brief was to remove all the internal cladding within the Headquarters, the electrical system, the plumbing, the toilets and the kitchen. Fortunately the building had been so draughty that the external cladding and framework had remained in remarkably good condition. The inside was insulated, reclad, services replaced and a disabled toilet and ramp installed.

The Headquarters remained out of action for approximately three months, but is now clean and

warm. The appearance of the building internally hasn't changed that much as we tried to retain the original character of the building but a tremendous amount of work has been carried out that cannot be seen.

We exceeded our budget by 10% but through financial assistance from The Peter Flower estate, The Garfield Weston Foundation, The Bernard Sunley Charitable Foundation, The Woodmansterne Charities', 1<sup>st</sup> Bentley Scout Group, Waitrose of Banstead and the Buy a Brick Fund we managed to remain debt free. We are also very grateful to Edward Shepperd, Brewers of Redhill, Ceramic Tile Distributors, Edmundson Electrical, Fern Howard Millwood Services Ltd, JJ Build, Rooms of Banstead and Leaders, Parents and friends for their support with materials, labour and time. Without all of this goodwill we would have found it very difficult to carry out the refurbishment and to these people we are very grateful.



## 1<sup>st</sup> Bentley

In this Olympic year, 1st Bentley celebrates 25 years in Scouting with a party in November to mark the year 1987 when the group was formed and this will be time to look back on all the activities and challenges that the scouts have achieved and how the group has developed.

13 scouts are in the group and in September 2 new members will join. All the scouts enjoy their scouting and at the end of 2011 whilst 1st Woods HQ was being refurbished, there was a visit to Epsom Ambulance Station and to 'Glazed All Over' which is a ceramic workshop in Wallington.

In July 2011 for the summer camp we went Lyons Copse in Hampshire and the theme was 'Medieval' this included a visit to Porchester Castle and having our own Medieval Banquet and an Archery competition.

This year, on Saturday 15th September, our camp will be at Thorrington Scout Campsite near Colchester where we will have our own Olympics travelling to the four corners of the world trying different foods and learning about the culture and having fun!

The scouts took part in St.George's Day Parade. The Group Exec. continues to give great support with some new members and a new Chairman on board. The scouts had a stall at the Woodmansterne Village Fair and a table top stall in Walton which was organised by the friends of the group. In December 2011 the scouts enjoyed a Christmas Meal at the Beefeater at Tattenham Corner and on October 18<sup>th</sup> this year, we shall be going to see 'Grease' at Wimbledon Theatre.

To all who have supported 1st Bentley during the 25 years thank you and to the leaders who make the meetings and camps the reason to be part of scouting in Banstead.

### Dates for your Diary

#### October

4<sup>th</sup> - District Team meeting  
6<sup>th</sup> - District Cub Cooking Competition  
20<sup>th</sup> - Safeguarding course

#### November

8<sup>th</sup> - Cub Team Meeting  
18<sup>th</sup> - District Cub Bowling Competition  
25<sup>th</sup> - 1<sup>st</sup> Response

#### December

6<sup>th</sup> - GSLs meeting

**Copy date for next issue 1<sup>st</sup> November  
2012 (Explorers & Network)**

**Please send articles and photos to  
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