



ISSUE 35/36

THE



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DATE: Spring/Summer 2014

NEWSLETTER OF BANSTEAD SCOUTS

High Sheriff visits Banstead



Peter Lee in all his regalia visited Banstead Scouts who were hosting the Chief Scout's Gold Award presentations for all of Surrey Scouts.

250 parents and friends were there with the Mayor of Reigate and Banstead and County Commissioner Roxanna Bostock.

The nine members from Surrey are pictured with the High Sheriff.

Jan's Jottings

Hi, I am Jan Jobson your new DC.

I am so proud to be part of Banstead District again, I spent a great deal of my childhood following my brother who was a scout at 1st Walton-on-the-Hill, plus my parents were involved with the group for many years.

Most of my scouting has been with the Cub Scout section holding most appointments within the section, although I can always be found on Beaver and Scout activities such as Bazzaz and Scoutabout. I am also part of the County Training Team responsible for administration for the central training courses.

It has been good to get around the District and meet Leaders and young people and I look forward to meeting those I have not met already in the very near future as I intend to visit all groups and sections.

I have held meetings with the ADCs and GSLs and would like to thank everyone in the District for all they do for the young people in their care. Helping them to grow in confidence by offering them challenge and adventure week after week.

Finally, I want to thank Ali for everything he has done for Banstead District Scouting and hope I can do the job to the high standard he has set.

Jan

Ist Woodmansterne (St Peter's) Scout Group

Beavers

Ruth Houghton runs the Beavers and has 16 lively children who have had a busy time over the last 6 months. Activities have included: a visit to Ducksford, a sleep-over, Pets-at-home, Christmas craft and a Christmas campfire shared with the Cubs. The newly refurbished Scout HQ that now



has curtains and a cooker too was the perfect venue to organise a sleep over for the Beavers that was enjoyed by all. Another sleep over is planned for the spring. Several Beavers are looking forward to moving on to Cubs this term to be replaced by new ones as they become old enough to join. Despite being on the top of a hill, the road outside the HQ was closed by flood water before Christmas and with the fallen trees too, suspicion fell upon the Beavers however, this was soon proven to be unfounded!

Cubs

Graham Payne, the Cub Scout leader, has maintained around 25 Cubs and over the year has focussed on the environment looking at green planet, energy saving and balsam pulling in Banstead Woods. Other outdoor activities included rounders, fire lighting, and a balloon race. At B&Q a 'hands on' tools evening was a big hit and a cup stand and a window box were made. Antipodean visitor Rodney, an elder from the Kara Kara tribe, spoke of traditional activities (hikes, knots, team games, maps and compass work) to mark Australia day. Cubs have been working hard towards achieving their badges including Fitness Challenge, Promise Challenge, and Global Challenge taking them well on their way towards the Silver Award, the highest award Cub Scouts can achieve. In addition to the weekly meetings, Cubs have had a rifle shooting competition and a parents vs cubs rounders match followed by a barbeque and glass of wine for the parents and soft drinks for the cubs. The summer camp at Frylands Wood, just outside Croydon was an action-packed week. On the site we regularly saw deer, rabbits and badgers including a white badger which was quite spooky in torchlight! Activities on site included air rifle shooting, archery, pot holing, assault challenge, camp gadget building, swimming, climbing and a hike

that provided a generous snack of cherries growing wild and wild strawberries

Scouts

Nigel Pierce is the Scout leader and the highlight of the year for the troop was the camp at Bushy Wood, attended by 23 Scouts. Activities included swimming, kayaking, wind surfing, sailing, hiking and patrol cooking. The quality of the patrol cooking was excellent, especially the camp challenge, where they prepare their own menu for a three course dinner, shop for it and then cook it. They always take the shopping in the local supermarket very seriously. The second place in the District cooking competition not long after was testament to their experience on summer camp. Activities in the HQ since have included electronics, brush bugs, cooking, assault course, 'scouts have talent' and a quizzical evening.

Cubs, Beavers and Scouts all attended the Woodmansterne Operatic and Dramatic Society' ('WODs') presentation of Hansel and Gretel at St Peter's Church Hall. It was a fantastic show and all had a great time and joined in the singing at the end. Several current and past Scouts were in the cast adding to the fun.

John Wilson GSL



3rd Banstead Scout Group

Scouts

Christmas Hike 2013



We have been running 3rd Banstead Youth Hostel Hikes on the weekend before Christmas for nearly 40 years now and these are being continued by the Explorer Units.

This last Christmas we thought that we would take a few Patrol Leaders for a South Downs Way Christmas hike to offer them concentrated map and compass tuition 'in the field'. We hiked from Jevington near Eastbourne to the new Youth Hostel on the road between Lewes and Newhaven and the next day from there to Stanmer near Brighton.

You may remember that the rain and storms before Christmas were some of the most extreme we have ever experienced and we had to cope with their full force. The first day we experienced very heavy rain and the second day brought us ferocious wind.

We largely followed the South Downs Way which runs along the top of the Downs so not a lot of cover. The Scouts performed magnificently and felt a real sense of achievement at the end. The new Youth Hostel at Itford Farm, Beddingham, was quite unlike any other we have experienced in the UK. The facilities and food were outstanding.



Because of the conditions it was not easy to stop as much as we would have liked for outdoor map and compass work. Just folding a map over in those conditions required quite some effort! However, a great deal was undertaken and we plan to repeat the exercise next Christmas

New Equipment Store at Scout Ridge

Scout Ridge is a heavily used building and of recent years we could have done with an additional meeting room. The answer to this was to convert our large internal storage room into a meeting room and build a new store room elsewhere.

The internal store had the same floor area as the meeting room above it and now that it is decorated and fitted with a new floor has made a very useful additional space for activities and tuition. All the equipment from it was moved out into a container for temporary storage.

That left the question as to how and where to provide a new permanent storage area. We settled on a brick built store which would be low maintenance and would match the appearance of Scout Ridge. It is located in the tarmac area to the right of our main building and has internal dimensions of 9 metres by 4 metres and a height of 2.7 metres. This will enable a good amount of standard racking to be fitted.

Money was raised and tender prices obtained and construction has now reached its final stage. As part of the project we are dividing the garage building by our entrance to provide a dedicated store for the Explorer Scouts which will have its own separate access door.

We have been extremely pleased with the standard of construction achieved by the builders, Banstead Plumbing and Property Maintenance, and their co-operation in working at a busy Scout site.



1st Tadworth

Cubs

Find Adventure At Walton Firs



On the weekend of the 7th to the 9th March 2014, 18 Cub Scouts and 7 Leaders headed to Walton Firs activity centre in Cobham for a great weekend of Fun and Adventure. Wide

games, Caving and Archery & crate stacking were just some of the activities on offer over the weekend and everyone had a great time!

After a hard day at school and work on Friday everyone arrived on the camp-site for team building games and a hike around the camp-site.

On Saturday the activities started early after a hearty breakfast as the cubs made their way to the adventure course to get very muddy! In the afternoon it was time to head for caving and crate stacking which were great fun with five of our cubs reaching 20 crates or above with one of them reaching 25 only 5 short of the site record!. The fun continued into the evening as the cubs practised their forthcoming rendition of Oliver and tried some gruel which didn't go down so well! Finally heading out for some wide-games to leave everyone suitable tired!

The cubs had to be woken up on Sunday (as did some of the leaders!) after breakfast the cubs headed for a trip to the tuck shop to buy some goodies to remember their weekend. The cubs then had the opportunity to try some archery and packed their bags before the closing ceremony.

A great weekend was had by all and we really can't wait for our next camp in August 2014



Park Farm

New activity building id finished and will be opened on 24th January 2015.

Please note the new fees payable from April 2014 on the web site.



7th Banstead

Cubs Annual Cub Camp

7th Banstead Cub Pack held its annual camp at the end of May at their regular site - on a farmers field in Angmering, Sussex. It was attended by 21 cubs, 8 scouts and 2 other children plus 17 assorted leaders and helpers. The days started with washing, (not something some of them appear to do at home by the comments made!), breakfast, washing up (something even less of them appear to do at home!) and morning kit inspection.

This was followed by assorted activities which included the Campers and Athletes Badges and incorporated a sports afternoon with water games, an assault course and the "Marathon".

The Cubs also enjoyed Swimming, a Tug of War competition, playing "Martians" in the dark in an overgrown chalk pit, a campfire, a visit to Amberley Chalkpit Museum with lots of "hands on things to do", a cubs versus leaders rounders match and making decorative coloured sand jars with a choice of colours far greater than Alum Bay has to offer! However the highlight of the week for some was the opportunity to try archery;



and for others the chance to cook their own lunch on an open fire.

The week finished with prize giving with all the tents winning at least one competition during the week. A great camp, with lots of new things to do and learn and best of all good weather for most of the week.

Janice Barber
Cub Scout Leader

7th Banstead Scouts

2013 was another action packed year for 7th Banstead Scouts with activities to suit all tastes.

The range of activities we could offer were enhanced by the purchasing of our new scout minibus after many years of fundraising, and we would like to say thank you to everyone who was involved in any aspect of that fundraising, and to anyone who contributed to our fund.

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At the beginning of the year we concentrated on the Scout Fire Safety Badge with an intensive five weeks of training including a fire escape simulation in the dark over various obstacles with 'smoke filled rooms', 'holes appearing in the floor' and 'people catching fire'! We also had a visit from Matthew Wood from Millwood Servicing Ltd, who used his former Royal Naval fire safety training to give a thought provoking talk to the scouts on the issue of fire safety, smoke alarms and extinguishers. There was also a formal test at the end of the course and I am pleased to say that the majority of the Troop passed. The Spring Term also included an indoor cooking evening, where the main test was to invent a new gravy to go with their meat dish, mini pioneering, swimming, an Easter treasure hunt and a visit to Laserquest followed by a sleepover. Three scouts also entered the County Cyclocross competition.



During the early May Bank Holiday weekend three patrols completed their Expedition Challenge with a two day hike carrying all their tents, food and equipment with them. The weather was kind, and apart from a lost hat blown off on a motorway bridge, and the occasional problem with the map reading, the scouts completed the weekend very successfully.



In August it was off to our annual camp held this year at Henlow in Bedfordshire where activities included swimming, shooting, a cooking competition, a hike treasure trail,

pond dipping, fishing and rafting. On the last day we visited Whipsnade Zoo and returned to a fish and chip supper.

We spent the autumn term completing the Campers, Camp Cook and Chef Badges that were started at summer camp, with discussion groups on healthy lifestyles, and the problems caused by drink, drugs and unhealthy diets. Other activities included a Group Torch walk, making knotting boards, and a visit to the Hollycombe Steam Fairground by moonlight followed by a sleepover.

We also had a very



interesting but sad Remembrance Day talk by Jenny from our church, who's father, John Hannah, was awarded the Victoria Cross for fighting a fire on his plane rather than bailing out. This allowed the plane to return to base, however he suffered serious burns from which he never really recovered, dying when Jenny was still very young. Various information can be found on the web including the painting below.

In October a team of four scouts entered the District Cooking Competition and took 1st prize in a hard fought competition. We also held Jamboree on the Air in our Scout HQ where scouts and guide members could contact others around the world by radio. Community service this year has included two mornings spent collecting litter for the Burgh Heath Residents Association, and providing and serving a Sunday lunch for local church members who would normally eat alone. We also successfully completed the covering and filling of 30 shoeboxes for Samaritans Purse charity.

Three scouts gained their Chief Scout Gold Award, the highest award in the Scout Section. Well done.

Janice Barber
Scout Leader

56th Jamboree on the Air



7th Banstead Scout Group again hosted a JOTA station, open to all sections in the district. JOTA the biggest event in scouting and takes place over the third full weekend in October. The event enables Beavers, Cubs and scouts to talk to other scout across the world using amateur radio. On arrival participants are issued with a passport and visit a selection of communication activities base which when signed off can work toward badge work. The bases included VHF radio, HF radio, Morse code, kit building and PMR radio games.

VHF radio provides communications up to about 50 miles and most contact were made to Epsom Scouts, and to Denis at the HQ Station at Gilwell Park. HF radio provides world wide communications and contacts were made across Europe and to North America. At the Morse code base the participants send and received a short message, and is always popular with the cubs and beavers. The kit this year was a camp lantern that automatically switches on when it gets dark, a simple circuit using an LED and light sensor that fits into a plastic milk bottle.

Also included for the second year was a Jamboree on the Internet station was included, this allows Beavers, Cubs and Scouts to connect to other scout groups via the internet using video conferencing. Contacts were made all across the world, but of course dependent on countries that are awake.

On completion of all the activities the participants were awarded with a JOTA badge which could be worn on their uniform.

Denis Noe

1st Nork Scout Group
Cubs

Summer Camp

In Summer 2013 the Nork Cubs travelled to Butchers Coppice campsite, near Bournemouth for their annual camp. The cubs enjoyed a varied programme, involving badge work, campsite activities such as archery, climbing and air-rifle shooting as well as several off-site visits, including Bovington Tank Museum and Monkey World (sadly the staff handed back all the cubs we tried to leave as exhibits).

A particular highlight was a visit to Brownsea Island, the site of the first ever Scout camp, where the cubs enjoyed several activities, such as clay model making and understanding of erosion, as well as the obligatory visit to the Providore to purchase some suitable souvenirs.

We even managed to get into the sea for some swimming.

Richard Salmon ACSL

Scouts

1st Nork group has had another challenging but rewarding year with Scouts growing and Beavers and Cubs completely full. Lots of great things happen last year as you can read about below. Nork celebrates its 80th year of scouting and to commemorate this we have several projects on the go:-

- We have planned two external murals for the front of our hut painted by everyone in the group.
- Time capsules to be opened on our centenary
- A group trip to the French war graves to commemorate 100 years since the world war

We will let you know more later in the year
Gary Hunnisett
1st Nork GSL

Dates for your Diary

June
17th District AGM

July
12th County CSA Gold Award Banstead
Hosting

August

September

October

November
9th Remembrance Service

December

January 2015
24th New activity cabin opening at Park
Farm

February
1st District Cub Bowling Competition
2nd Cascade Claygate Scout Centre

March

April
26th St Georges Day Service

June
27th Bazaaz

July
5th Cubs Fun Day Park Farm

Copy date for next issue 14th January
2015

Articles from leaders and members
please.

1st Bentley, Park Farm, Explorers and
Scout Network it's your say.

Please send articles and photos to
lenbutler@aol.com

Editor's Note

Apologies for the delay in issuing The
Ram and thank you for your
contributions. The main reason has
been due to time restraints of all
involved and the change of DC and the
delayed introduction of compass.

Len

Farewell to Ali, but don't think you have
escaped!!

Presentation and farewell party at Park
Farm.



BANSTEAD DISTRICT SCOUT SHOP

Please note the shop has reopened

Saturday mornings from 10am-12noon
Nork Scout and Guide Headquarters,
Warren Road, Nork.

10% returned to Groups.