



# The A20 Link



Sharing your news & information across the Boroughs of Bexley and Bromley

August 2009

## Message from County Commissioner

I'm writing this during Volunteers' Week, which is the national campaign week to promote, recruit and thank volunteers across the UK, so it is an ideal opportunity to sincerely thank you all for your contribution to Scouting, be it large or small; it all helps to keep our wonderful organisation moving forward and our young people engaged in meaningful, fun, adventurous and challenging activities. So, 'thank you!'

Summer approaches and I hope you have planned lots of outdoor activities for your section and young people. Please do invite me along to your days out and camps and I will try my best to fit them into my diary.

I hope you have booked onto our Camp America this October - we won't let the delayed flight stop us from having an awesome experience at The Shaws in Cudham. Likewise I hope you're booked onto the expedition to Austria next summer - this also promises to be a fantastic opportunity for your young people (and you!). It isn't often that events like these are offered to us on a plate, with little organisation required from your end, so if you haven't booked onto either one yet, it's not too late! Please pass requests and feedback (good and bad!) to the event managers - their details are in this newsletter.

I have spent the last 13 months sorting out the housekeeping for the County and feel we have our processes and functions in place now. I am now looking at long term development and services and, at the County Conference this July with the District Commissioners and County Team and Executive, will plan the next few years. If there is anything you would like to see happen then please let me know. I am always open and keen for constructive feedback - so please don't hesitate to contact me on my mobile 07880 966226 or email me on [countycommissioner@glsecouts.org.uk](mailto:countycommissioner@glsecouts.org.uk)

Once again, my sincere thanks for all you do in Scouting and I look forward to seeing you again very soon.

Ben Richardson

## LB Bexley Small Grants Scheme for Voluntary Youth Groups

The money that used to be administered by the BCVYO is now administered by GLSE Scouts (for all voluntary youth groups). If you used to receive money from BCVYO, you now need to apply to GLSE. All of the details are on our website - [www.glsecouts.org.uk/smallgrants](http://www.glsecouts.org.uk/smallgrants). If you need any other information, please contact your District Commissioner or myself

Ben Richardson

## The 1st Bridgen Scout Group

In May this year, a group of 48 Beavers, Cubs and Scouts from the 1st Bridgen Group in Bexley took part in their annual sponsored cycle around Bexley Woods with the aim of raising money towards the upkeep of their scout hall.



However they also received news that the group had won a national competition sponsored by Dulux paint and so, at the end of May, a dozen volunteers from the group, joined four professional painters and decorators for the 'makeover'. They painted the main hall, including goalposts on the end walls, the toilets and the lobby whose walls have been decorated with trees - with multi-coloured leaves made out of handprints from all the boys and girls.

The national and local press came on the Saturday to record the progress being made and were met by the ever famous Dulux dog - pictured wearing the County scarf! The scout hut was built in 1978 but apart from one wall painted by parents about 15 years ago, no one can remember the hall every being repainted.

This saw the culmination of an exciting year for the group which has seen both an increase in members and leadership.

## Jimmy Bus

A presentation was made to Sidcup District by the parents of the murdered teenage - Jimmy Mizen - a year following his tragic death. Jimmy himself was a Beaver and Cub Scout.



The Mizen family, who own a shop in High Street Sidcup, set about raising money by setting up the Jimmy Mizen Foundation to buy minibuses for scout groups in Lee and Sidcup. Barry and Margaret Mizen made the 'Jimmy Bus' presentation to Sidcup scouts and comedian and BAFTA 2009 award winner Harry Hill helped with the presentation.

Barry Mizen said: "We believe providing opportunities to the vast majority of decent young people in this country is the most effective way of combating the current issues in our society."

## Demelza

'Adding life to days when days cannot be added to life'

Last month the new Demelza Hospice Care for Children in Eltham was officially opened by ice skaters Robin Cousins and Jayne Torvill. Demelza relies almost entirely on voluntary contributions to run its services and, with the help of the community, is able to provide hospice care for children who are not expected to reach adulthood. Specialist children's nurses make the most of every moment that the child spends at Demelza and, at the end of a child's illness, Demelza offers a comprehensive service providing bereavement support for as long as the family requires it.

Scouting in GLSE has been a very keen supporter of Demelza with beavers, cubs and scouts fund raising to buy a stone on the 'walk of life' whilst other groups within the County have raised money to undertake specific projects. At a recent ceremony, Marie Thomas, ADC Cub Scouts for Erith & Crayford, received an award for being the 'Outstanding Individual Fundraiser' by taking part in a trek in New Zealand which involved climbing two mountains, traversing round cliff edges, wading in what should have been ankle deep water but ended up to be chest deep and walking approximately 25-30 kilometres a day over a 12 day period. Marie set herself a target of £3,500 but with fantastic support from the district, with every group helping with fundraising efforts, the money came rolling in so that the amount raised was in excess of £20,000. This money paid for a network of computers which have now been proudly installed in the new hospice. Congratulations Marie and well done to all those who helped and supported you!

If you wish to know more about how you can help and support Demelza all information can be obtained from their website: [www.demelza.org.uk](http://www.demelza.org.uk)



## From our very own Young Spokesperson

We were lucky enough to secure a place for one of our Explorer Scouts - Chloe Marriott to attend a meeting on Money, Integrity, Well-being at the G20 Summit to represent GLSE Scouts. Attendees at the meeting included: The Prime Minister, Australian Prime Minister and The Bishop of London.



Chloe Reports, 'When I arrived at the cathedral, I had the privilege of meeting people such as Hazel Blears, the (then) Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Douglas Alexander, the Secretary of State for International Development and Harriet Harmon the Deputy Leader of Labour party.

Before the meeting I prepared a few questions in case they could be asked at the meeting. Luckily enough on the back of the programme was a space where questions could be written and handed in and some would be addressed closing the meeting.

My question was:

*'Young people are faced with more challenges today than ever, some obviously safe jobs are clearly not safe any more and we have difficult decisions ahead when it comes to further education and career paths. How does the panel think that this generation of young people can re-establish trust that their future will not be a casualty of this global economic crisis?'*

My question was lucky enough to be addressed - only four were picked!

Kevin Rudd: he said that there was 'huge faith within the children' and that the young children of today bring hope and will do what's needed at a turning point.

Gordon Brown: 'we owe it to our young children to have faith forever. Young people are changing the world by what they do'. He said it is a sense of relief in the future and he is confident as we have young people willing to change the world'.

## Training Update

It has been a couple of busy months! 38 leaders attended the Module 16, Nights Away weekend for all section leaders at Wilberforce.

By the end of June, 44 adults would have attended the Module 37 sessions for Advisory Appointment Committee members. Paul Amass, ACC Communications, has also been providing training to Appointment Secretaries for the new online appointments system.

So far, 50 adults have attended the two Child Protection Workshops, with another 42 on the 30th June. This workshop is for all adults working with young people in the County, whatever their role. They will eventually become a condition of renewal of appointment, similar to holding a First Aid Certificate. Further opportunities to attend this workshop will be available around the County in the 2010/2011 training programme.

Congratulations to the leaders in Bexleyheath and Erith & Crayford districts who have completed their Wood Badge training.

Do not forget there are two opportunities in September and October to attend modular training weekends! Adults can attend if they require all the modules on offer or only those relevant to their training needs.

Any questions or queries please contact me at [training@glscouts.org.uk](mailto:training@glscouts.org.uk). Have a good summer break!

Mark Knill, County Training Manager

## Camp America

Whilst the sun shone, beavers, cubs and scouts enjoyed a brilliant fun-filled weekend at Cudham - this being a prelude to our forthcoming Camp America experience on 10th/11th October 2009..



All the attractions will await you at Cudham including the Simulators, Robo Wars, Segways, Trampolines, Quad Bikes and much much more. For the younger members we have 100 Acre Wood, exciting things to make and see including the Falcons. The first day culminates in a huge BBQ and the High School Musical or for the Networkers we have the Casino. Elections with a difference, Dance & Cheerleader workshops, singing with Elvis and Bounce on the inflatables - all go to make up a weekend with a difference.

We have also held the price at £35 for the weekend and £15 for the day so apply today. Don't worry about the money, send in your booking form TODAY and pay in September, your group does not want to miss this experience. Booking forms are on the web site ([www.glscouts.org.uk/campamerica](http://www.glscouts.org.uk/campamerica)), or can be obtained from me on 07809 201838 or by emailing [campamerica@glscouts.org.uk](mailto:campamerica@glscouts.org.uk) See you there!

Ann Beard

## Introducing 14 - 25 Provision in GLSE

Following the recent meeting of the 14 -25 provision team, I would like to provide you all with an update regarding its membership and some of the work they have underway:

The 14-25 team is made up of:

**Steve Pegram** in the role of County Explorer Scout Leader, responsible for contact between ES units and the County and for the delivery of Explorer Scout events.

**Stephen Gunn** in the role of County Scout Network Leader, responsible for contact between SN units and the County and for the delivery of Scout Network events.

**Lewis Taylor** as Duke of Edinburgh's Award Advisor, responsible for operating the Scheme in GLSE, to encourage and support further participation across the County and to assist in identifying parallels in the Scout Training Programme to agree accreditation where possible.

**Oscar Gould** in the role of County Explorer & Scout Network Commissioner. Responsible for Policy, Strategy and Coordination between the sections.

**14-25 team administrator** - to be appointed - responsible for minutes of meetings, County Scout Network Census returns that are not part of a Scout District, Registration of any young person who will starting their Queen's Scout Award and maintaining records of Achievement for Chief Scout's Award, Platinum & Diamond Award together with the coveted Queen's Scout Award.

Members of the GLSE Queen's Scout Award Panel, in the capacity of young persons' representatives and active members of the team. Contact details for the team will be in the next edition of the County directory.

### Queen's Scout Panel

The County has created a Queen's Scout Award Panel comprising recent award holders to facilitate the QSA assessment process and to make the final recommendation to the County Commissioner prior to him signing off the award. Further details of this process will be circulated and posted on the County Website.



## Queen's Scout Award Workshops

The County will be holding workshops to assist young people to start their journey on the Queen's Scout Award and to help them create an expedition team with other like-minded people from across the County. The aim of the workshop is to enable more young people gain their QSA through a personally challenging programme and maintain standard across the county.

### County Explorer Scout Event - M.E.S.H. 25th/27th September 2009: Downe Campsite

This event has grown from a Chislehurst District Event and attracts Explorer Scouts from all over the country, with Explorers attending from Scotland and other parts of the UK. I would recommend this camp to all our Explorer Scouts as a good value, highly entertaining camp aimed solely at Explorer Scouts.

### GLSE County Scout Network weekend in Bristol: 11th/13th September 2009 going to "Intense 2009"

Intense is a Scout Network and Senior Section (18+) activity weekend. Evening entertainment is provided on both evenings and Sunday morning sees our famous piano bash and GLSE's own piano smashing team! Intense is located at Woodhouse Park Scout Camp Site, which is situated to the north of Bristol in South West England. The County will be organising transport to and from the event to ensure that everyone gets to have a rest on the way home. Details together with cost will be published shortly to all and will be shown on the County website.

For further information on 14-25 programme or events, please contact Oscar Gould - 14-25@glsescouts.org.uk

## Orpington District's weekend at the Biggin Hill Air Fair

Another year, another Biggin Hill Air Fair. Saturday was the quieter day, but Sunday saw the public do a rerun of last year's parking



problems, with the grounds closed by 2pm. What a place to have a Scouting stand and do some real canvassing amongst the about 100,000 people that again turned up to see the graceful flight of the Vulcan on Saturday the imposing Battle of Britain Memorial Flight - complete with the Lancaster on Saturday - and the awesome sight of a Virgin 747 within about 50 feet of the runway. And always the ever present Scouts and Scouters, who always turn out in great numbers, not only to show what a great organisation Scouting is, but also to explain to the public why it might be a great idea to join us!

After using the Mobile Display Unit for the last two years, it was decided to use a simple base with a Scouting gazebo and, most importantly, relevant local material to hand to interested people and sufficient volunteers to talk with the public.

The result: a lot of interested people, some potential new leaders and two days of great weather, great Scouting and hopefully some new leaders. Would we do it again? Absolutely! I would like to extend a huge thank you to all those who supported the stand to make this event so successful.

Henk van Welsenens, D.C. Orpington

## Orpington Cub Scout Gains Meritorious Award

A Cub Scout from Orpington has been given the top award by the Scout Association. Thomas Kingsland, 9, who attends the 3rd Orpington Pathfinders has been given the Chief Scout's Commendation for Meritorious Conduct.



Thomas has been awarded this in recognition of his enthusiasm to continue Scouting whilst supporting and caring for his Mother and also coping with his own difficulties. From an early age Thomas has helped his mother around the house, whilst dealing with the disruption of frequent hospital visits and stays for them both.

Despite this, Thomas is always bright and cheerful, maintaining an excellent sense of humour, always ready to socialise with other members of the Pack and considerate of others at all times. His best friend Morgan Pugh says "I like being Thomas' friend. We have a really good time playing on the Wii and he can do brilliant tricks with his Diablo."

## Awards for April to June

### Chief Scout's Commendation For Meritorious Conduct



- Thomas Kingsland, Cub Scout 3rd Orpington

### Chief Scout's Commendation For Good Service



- Stephen Appleby, ASL, 15th Bromley
- Timothy Bermingham-Shaw, BSL 12th Erith
- David Butler, CSL 18th Erith
- Lisa Hawkins, CSL / ABSL 1st Crayford
- Wendy Manley, BSL 9th Erith Air Scout Group
- Zoe Meaton, SL 16th Erith
- David Partis, ACSL 16th Erith
- Kirsty Regan, SL 1st Crayford
- John Rouse, ACSL 18th Erith
- Ian Thomas, SL 9th Erith Air Scout Group

### Award for Merit



- Rolf John George Parker, GSA 22nd Bromley
- Lyn Beeson, CSL / DCSL 2nd Erith
- Michael John Pether, SL / DSL 7th Orpington
- Iris Patricia Vidler, DSFM/DSFTR Erith and Crayford

### Bar To The Award For Merit



- Evelyn Ives, GSL / District International Adviser 13th Erith
- James E Brown - Bromley

### George's Day Awards 2009 Silver Acorn



- Lesley M Butler - Erith & Crayford
- Paul A Elwood - Bromley
- Gary G Fuller - Bromley
- Frank G Gardiner - Erith & Crayford
- Richard W Gillman - East Wickham & Welling
- Philip 'Oscar' Gould - GLSE
- Philip Lamprell - Orpington
- Patricia North - Bromley
- Hendrik van Welsenens - Orpington
- Richard S Willgoss - East Wickham & Welling
- Barry J Wright - Erith & Crayford

### Greater London Regional Awards (awarded by the Regional Commissioner in appreciation of support and contribution)

- James Allen - Explorer Scout Leader, Bromley
- Paul Amass - ACC Communications
- Alison Bruce - County Executive Member
- Phil Day - Campdowne 2008 Event Manager
- Oscar Gould - Explorer and Scout Network Commissioner
- John Withey - County Appointments Chairman

## County Diary 2009

### SEPTEMBER

- 1st - Senior Management Team
- 3rd - International Working Group
- 7th - County Exec
- 7th - Development Working Group
- 9th - Adult Support Working Group
- 12th - Module 10 (First Aid - Bromley) training
- 14th - DCs Forum
- 15th - Appointments Advisory Panel
- 17th - ACC Forum
- 19th - Module 10 (First Aid - Bexley) training
- 19th-20th - Modules 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 & 14 training
- 19th-20th - Modules 20, 22, 23, 24 & 26 training
- 24th - County AGM
- 28th - Senior Management Team

### OCTOBER

- 10th-11th - Camp America
- 11th Module 10 (First Aid - Bromley) training
- 12th - Activity Team Meeting
- 17th-18th - Modules 11, 12, 13, 15, 18 & 19 training
- 24th-25th - Module 21 training
- 25th - Module 10 (First Aid - Bexley) training

### Austria 2010

Have you ever canyoned? Have you ever hiked the mountains of Austria? Have you ever visited a mysterious Bavarian Castle? Have you ever white water rafted, extreme canyoned, lugged, cycled, ridden a chair lift, rock climbed, roller bladed? No? Well now is your opportunity to join 400 others from GLSE on a fantastic experience as we now have managed to secure additional places.



Currently we have taken most of the accommodation in Stanzach and Bach and are now filling other villages. It's not too late to book - £450 per person; assisted places available

Visit website [www.glsescouts.org.uk/2010](http://www.glsescouts.org.uk/2010) for details or contact Carol Jackson - [2010manager@glsecouts.org.uk](mailto:2010manager@glsecouts.org.uk)

### GLSE News Roundup

Usually issued bi-weekly, The GLSE News round up has been established to ensure you get regular organised updates from the communications team. If you would like receive this it, email [communications@glsecouts.org.uk](mailto:communications@glsecouts.org.uk)

### Next Newsletter - Your Articles Welcome!

If you have any articles or news, please send them to [newsletter@glsecouts.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@glsecouts.org.uk). All articles for the next newsletter must be received by 15th September 2009.



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The Scout Association

Find out about the adventure of  
Scouting in GLSE

Visit [www.glsescouts.org.uk/adventure](http://www.glsescouts.org.uk/adventure)  
Or Call 08444 142 769

