



The A20 Link



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

January 2009

Happy New Year!



I hope you all had a fantastic break, and feel rested, recharged and ready for another fun packed term!

I have been very busy the past few months attending various meetings and making new contacts, both in and out of Scouting. I visited several Christmas carol services and parties, it was great to see all the young people having so much fun, as well as the leaders! I am also going around and attending District Executive Committee meetings and District Team and GSL meetings.

There is a lot of work being put into our Activity Weekend and Skills Day - see the details inside. Also arrangements for our 2010 expedition are also being finalised. Full details about this opportunity will be released during two expedition briefing sessions, again details inside. These events promise to be great fun, so make sure you put the dates in your diary! I am working to recruit an expedition manager for 2010 expedition, please contact me directly for further details.

A new County Directory will be issued this month - it holds all the contact details for across the County - a very handy document. Ask your GSL or DC for your copy.

I have been busy building a great and enthusiastic County Team - more about them later. If you fancy joining the winning team, have a look at the vacancies and give me a call!

Our 2011 Jamboree Unit will be selected this year - both leaders and Explorer Scouts. Application forms and details of the selection weekends will be available soon - watch this space!

It is great to see the amazing opportunities we offer through Scouting. If you would like me to come along to anything please let me have plenty of notice, and if I'm not already attending an event or activity I will do my best to come along.

Lastly - I am in the Chislehurst Gang Show in February - so please come along and enjoy a great show! I've been told there will be buckets of tomatoes on the door! Look forward to seeing you there!

Here's to a great 2009!

Ben Richardson

Meet your team

In our first issue Ben shared his thoughts and plans for Greater London South East. He has been very busy augmenting and strengthening his team and we thought it a good idea to introduce you to some of the new faces

Mark Knill -County Training Manager

For those who do not know me I am an Explorer Scout Leader in Beckenham District, having previously worked in the Cub Scout and Venture Scout sections. I have been involved in leader training before in the county and GLMW.



I am pleased to announce that the first member of the training team is Trisha Webb, who will fulfill the role of County Training Administrator. This is essential for the smooth running of all training courses.

A group met at the end of November to discuss and then agree a proposed plan of action. The next step is to recruit facilitators, presenters, directors, caterers and quartermasters for the different training modules. Anyone who has an interest and enthusiasm for training will be welcome! Training should never be dull! Just like the adult leader modular scheme, training team members have to complete training, experience and previous knowledge is taken into consideration.

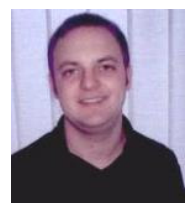
The start date is April 1st 2009. We will be starting just before that with the Young Leader Scheme training weekend, 20th-22nd March. My first priority will be to offer a module sixteen, Night's Away weekend before the summer break. I intend to offer the other modules from September 2009.

Please bear with me; it is going to take time! After a four -year break with no county run courses, there is much to plan and organise.

Please feel free to contact me at training@glsecouts.org.uk and ask questions - I am here to help. I am really looking forward to working with everyone in GLSE and providing good quality training, enabling adults to fulfill their roles in Scouting.

Paul Amass - ACC Communications

I'm very excited to take on this challenging role as ACC Communications. With the support of my team, we have improved communications within the County with the introduction of the County Newsletter and News Round up. We have also issued over 1000 recruitment flyers to County



members for them to use during their Christmas recruitment period and we are in the final stages of agreeing a Marketing and Communications Strategy. Throughout the coming year I am looking forward to maintaining this momentum and implementing this strategy.

Lee 'Mole' Curtis - ACC Development

I see my role as a chance to look at how we, as a County, integrate with our local communities. By speaking to them about the benefits of Scouting, I hope to develop the understanding of those in our communities that we are a fully co-educational movement and, more importantly, open to all.

Over the next year, we will be producing information, tools and delivering presentations so that GLSE can grow to its full potential.



Christo Sofianos - Media Development Manager

As Media Development Manager for GLSE, it is my aim to raise the profile for of all of the excellent work that is being done by GLSE & its Leaders. This will be achieved via the media outlets such as newspapers, TV, radio and in this cyber age, online. This is an exciting time to be in Scouting and we must all continue to work hard to maximise the exposure of all aspects of Scouting. Please feel free to contact me for support with media engagement - media@glscouts.org.uk.



Fran Georgel- ACC International

I see the role of ACC(I) as providing information and input on international matters relating to Scouting in the county and in particular, supporting leaders in their quests for international adventures. As a Venture Scout I was fortunate enough to participate in many overseas trips as well as participating in the International Camp Staff Programme. As ACC(I) I hope to be able to draw upon my own experience of working in the travel industry as well as my current Scouting appointments as an ASL and Advisor, in carrying out this role.



Building a winning team

We have some key vacancies with the team and Ben is working to fill these as a priority. Currently the following roles are available: ACC Beavers, ACC Cubs, ACC Scouts and ACC Fellowship. If you think you are up for the challenge of these rewarding roles, please contact Ben for information.

County Expedition - 2010

The County is organising an expedition abroad for the summer of 2010! It will be open to anyone over the age of 8 years old and will cater for everyone's needs, wants and skills!

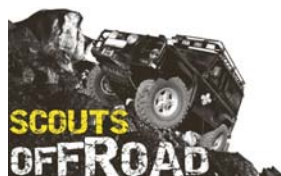
Where?! What?! Who?! When?! How?!

If you would like to find out more then please come along to either of these presentations:

- 24th February 2009 - 8pm, Bromley Borough
- 25th February 2009 - 8pm, Bexley Borough

Venues for the presentations will be communicated shortly. During the presentations, everything will be revealed including destination, activities, logistics, costs etc. Put the date in your diary now!

For the latest news: visit www.glscouts.org.uk/2010



..... an activity not to be ignored!

Have you considered getting involved with a new Scout activity group called "Scouts Off Road"? This is a Scout based 4 x 4 vehicle owners' group comprising of Leaders and Scout network members who go "Off Roding" as much as they can in a safe and responsible manner.

There are two types of 'Scout Off Road' days. The first being the 'Experience Day' where a selected amount of drivers from the group 'Scouts Off Road' will take Leaders, Explorers and Network members through an off road course.

The latter is the 'Adventure' which will be more extreme and on a whole different level. This will be a Network / Leader event due to the nature of the courses and the different location/countries we will be exploring.

These events are not to be missed and are a whole lot of fun!!



If you have any queries or wish to book an experience day please contact Simon Gould or Fiona Gasche by email to scoutsoffroad@dsl.pipex.com

Skills Day - Date for your Diary

The County team are organising a skills day for all leaders/helpers within the County. The organising team are pulling together a huge variety of skills and activity sessions for you to brush up on your knowledge, learn new skills, meet other Scouters from around the County and (of course) to have fun!

The event is FREE and will be held on the 29th March 2009 at Coopers Technology College. Full details about the event including a programme will be published shortly in the GLSE Round Up, so look out for further details coming soon.

County Activity Weekend

Plans are in progress for a weekend of activities for all GLSE's young people. The hope is to have an action packed weekend for all ages at Downe Camp Site. Running on 3rd-4th July, the theme will be Independence day and will have a truly American feel to it. All Cubs, Scouts, Explorers & Networkers will be able to camp and the Beavers can join us for a day of adventure.

More information which will be published shortly in the News Round Up.

MESH- Mixing Explorer Scout Holiday '08

The last weekend of September saw the annual Explorer Scout MESH weekend at Downe Activity Centre. This was the 4th MESH, as ever organised by the Chislehurst District Explorer team and the theme for the weekend was The Wild West.

90 Explorer Scouts together with 30 leaders and Networkers attended the weekend, during which we were blessed with some of the finest weather of the summer. Publicity through Facebook, Scoutbase and also from meeting people at Campdowne meant we had Explorers not only from GLSE but from far flung places such as Ramsgate, Bedford and even a unit from Scotland!

The Explorers were split into teams to mix them up and allow them to meet new friends. Activities included crate stacking, archery, shooting and various games. There were also Wild West activities such as wig-wam building, camp fire, making and cooking sausages and a themed wide game.



Saturday night saw everyone have some fun with fancy dress line dancing led by GLSE's own Lee "Mole" Curtis, followed by a disco.

A fantastic weekend was had by all and I would like once again to thank all those who helped to make the event a success.



The dates for MESH 2009 are Friday 25th – Sunday 27th September and the theme is The Future – MESH 2109. The venue will be Downe Activity Centre.

It would be great to have more GLSE Explorers there to really make it a County event. We are always looking for new ideas so if anyone would like to join the organising team then please give me a call or drop me an email.

Steve "Bert" Pegram - stevepeggram@hotmail.com

Comet Simulator ready for take off!

Fifty years to the day that scheduled jet transatlantic passenger flights began, the 9th Erith Air Scouts recreated the occasion on a newly restored flight simulator.



The restored Comet cockpit simulator at the Scout Aviation Centre, Biggin Hill Airport, was officially opened on Saturday 4th October. The Comet simulator carries the same registration – G-APDB - as the first Comet to undertake the service from New York to London on 4 October 1958.

For the last 8 months Ian Thomas and his team from 9th Erith Air Scouts have been bringing this simulator back to life and linking it into a computer running Microsoft Flight Simulator X along with projecting the view of the outside world through the cockpit windows.

The simulator can now be used by Scouts who visit the centre. A typical 'flight' allows young people to take off from Biggin and then fly over London to land at Heathrow which will take them about 15 minutes. During the whole flight, the Scouts will be in charge, 'flying' the simulator from the captain and first officer seats with minimal intervention from the adult instructor.

The Scout Aviation Centre is crewed by Air Scouts from Greater London South and Greater London South East. It provides air training to members of the Scout Association from across England and to other youth groups. For more information please contact Ian Piper - ianp@pbmail.co.uk

We are very pleased that the Newshopper and Bromley Times Newspapers were able to report on this outstanding achievement.

Archery now available at Wilberforce

Wilberforce are now able to offer archery facilities at Scout Centre in Keston. They have two targets which groups may hire at a charge of £1 per person per occasion plus the appropriate site user's fee.

Bookings as for all Wilberforce Scout Centre buildings and camping to John Hammond, wilberforce@bromleyscouts.org



Awards for November and December

Bar To The Award For Merit

- Miss Pamela Ann 'Pam' Moss, ACSL 18th Bromley



Award For Merit

- Colin Phillip Hooper, ADC (Beaver Scouts) Bromley



Chief Scout's Commendation For Good Service

- Miss Lynne Coshall, ACSL 5th / 7th Bexleyheath
- Mrs Sally Hurlle, Group Treasurer 18th Bromley
- Mr Marc Patrick O'Shea, Group Supporter 3rd Bromley
- Miss Sarah Louise Abbott, CSL 14th Bromley, Bromley



Cubs experience Firepower

Ninety-one Sidcup Cubs visited Firepower, The Royal Artillery Museum based at Woolwich.



With Cubs divided into groups of 15, our group started with military drill. They were shown how to march, stand at ease, to attention and about turn; as our solder Neil barked out the orders, including the 'wait for it' trap, the Cubs marched to and fro. Stopping is no easier, stop out of step and the first Cub gets marched on or overtaken!

Next was a visit to the 'bomb damaged' Breech cinema where we were shown the history of the Royal Arsenal, and, being interactive, the chance to 'blow up' a tank with a special effects rocket.

After lunch, it was time to 'Hunt the Horrible'. The Cubs were given a list of things to find in the Gunnery Hall, including a Roman Coffin, a dead tortoise, 108 year old bar of Chocolate and teeth from an elephant...

This was followed by The Field of Fire, a theatre in the round showing the history of artillery from Victorian times to the present day complete with multi sound and visual effects.

The day finished with a bang, quite literally with Each Cub having the chance to fire a 1914, 25 pounder field cannon; with blanks I must point out otherwise they would be nothing left of Woolwich!

Next Newsletter

If you have any articles or news, please send them to newsletter@glscouts.org.uk. All articles for the next newsletter need to be received by 10th March 2009.



County Diary 2009

JANUARY

- 12th - Activity Team Meeting - 8.00pm - Wilberforce
- 18th - Senior Management Team
- 19th - County Exec - 7.30pm - Wilberforce
- 19th - Development Working Group

FEBRUARY

- 9th - DCs Forum - 8.00pm - Bexley Borough District
- 11th - New Adult appointment process Briefing - 8.00pm - 6th Sidcup HQ
- 12th - Senior Management Team
- 17th - Appointments Sub-Committee
- 19th - 21st - Chislehurst Gangshow - 7:00pm
- 20th-22nd - County Canoeing/Kayaking River Barle trip
- 23rd - ACC Forum
- 24th - County Expedition Briefing - Bromley
- 25th - County Expedition Briefing - Bexley

MARCH

- 2nd - Senior Management Team
- 4th - International Working Group
- 9th - County Exec - 7.30pm - Wilberforce
- 16th - Development Working Group
- 20th-22nd - Young Leaders training - Hope Hill
- 28th - DC Forum - London Region - BP House
- 29th - County Skills Day

APRIL

- 2nd - Senior Management Team
- 4th-5th - Foresters Hike - Broadstone Warren
- 20th - Adult Support Working Group
- 20th - Activity Team Meeting - 8.00pm - Wilberforce
- 21st - Appointments Sub-Committee
- 21st - DC's Forum
- 23rd - GLSE Cabaret Fundraising Event
- 25th - EW & W St Georges Day Dinner
- 26th - E&C, EW & W, Bromley, Bexleyheath, Orpington St Georges Parades
- 27th - ACC Forum

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 are not receiving this update and would like to get it. Please email communications@glscouts.org.uk

Foresters Hike

A Popular Incident Night Hike of 15 to 20 Miles based from Broadstone Warren Campsite, Sussex. Separate Explorer / Ranger (14 to 17) & Network / Senior Section (18 to 25) Competitions

Saturday 4th – Sunday 5th April 2009

Please see www.forestershike.org.uk or e-mail forestershike@bexleyheathscouts.org.uk



ForestersHike
Bexleyheath District Scouts

Join the **adventure**

The Scout Association

Find out about the adventure of
Scouting in GLSE

Visit www.glscouts.org.uk/adventure
Or Call 08444 142 769

