



# The A20 Link \*



See name competition at the bottom of this page

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

October 2008

## Wow! What a County!

Since May I have been out and about a great deal, meeting as many of you as possible across the County. I have attended AGMs and other meetings, conducted a series of one to ones and experienced the Scouting you offer the young people and adults whom you support and are responsible for. I am so impressed with the many committed leaders and adults across the County, developing and growing Scouting. I know that, with continued support, Greater London South East will remain one of the premier Counties in London and the UK!



As many of you know, I have volunteered primarily in East Sussex, both in and out of Scouting. I have been involved with projects and work at HQ over the years and also on an international scale, particularly in Africa. My current vocation is with the Wandsworth Voluntary Sector Development Agency and I hope that this, along with my volunteer experience, will add to the vast talent already here in the County, enabling us to really move forward in Scouting's second centenary and build on the successes of last year.

Finally, I would like to thank all of the adults in Scouting - leaders, helpers, managers and trustees for the excellent contribution you make and for your hard work and dedication! Without you, the thousands of young people across the County who enjoy Scouting each week, would miss out on the fun, challenge and adventure you provide! If you would like me to attend any of the events and activities that your Group is organising, please do invite me! I will always come along if I don't have anything in my diary already!

Ben Richardson

## Got a Question for Ben?

Ask Ben online - [www.glsescouts.org.uk/askben](http://www.glsescouts.org.uk/askben)

## How do I get this newsletter?

We aim to produce this newsletter quarterly. The newsletter will be distributed electronically to all the email addresses we have on our County distribution list. If you didn't receive a copy, please let us know - [communications@glscouts.org.uk](mailto:communications@glscouts.org.uk)

We appreciate that not everyone has access to email, so if you would like to receive a paper copy, please register your interest with the County Secretary.

## GLSE - Back to Basics

The County Team and District Commissioners recently identified a number of areas that we need to work towards and, over the next two years, we will be working towards putting in a number of strategies and policies. The two year plan also includes some clear deliverable targets that the County Team, together with the leadership across the County, will provide. The details of the two year plan were presented at this year's AGM and are available on the website - or you can request a paper copy by contacting the County Secretary.



After reading the plan, I hope you will agree that it is a great start for the County, building towards a support and provision network, both for the balanced programme for our Young People, but also for the hundreds of adults who generously give their time to Scouting. My only request to the leadership of GLSE is to take part in what we are offering - for your benefit and, ultimately, the Young People who enjoy your programme.

This is only a starting point on which we hope to build even further and, once again, ensure that GLSE is the County to be a part of!

## Dates for your Diary:

- Cabaret Night - 9th October 2008 - includes Entertainment and supper
- County Ball - 6th December 2008 - Our Annual Ball at Charlton Athletic Football Club



For full details please contact Bill Gunn - [bill.gunn@btinternet.com](mailto:bill.gunn@btinternet.com)

County Diary: [www.glsescouts.org.uk/calendar](http://www.glsescouts.org.uk/calendar)

## \* Articles, Comments or Name Suggestions?



If you have any comments on this newsletter or any name suggestions, please send them to - [newsletter@glscouts.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@glscouts.org.uk). Ben will choose the name for the newsletter and a prize will be issued to winner!

If you have any articles or news, please send them to [newsletter@glscouts.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@glscouts.org.uk). All articles for the next newsletter need to be received by 1st December 2008.

## Networkers, have you ever wanted to do something amazing?

Why not join the County Commissioner and the rest of GLSE Scout Network in the first of many adventures with a charity parachute jump?



The GLSE Scout Network will be jumping for charity in May 2009 over sunny Cambridgeshire where you will be spending a weekend training to jump from 3,500 feet using a square parachute.

There are also several opportunities for Scout Network members to assist with Royal and National Duties in the London area - are you interested?

Look out for further information or send a "Sign me up" email to Oscar: [csnc@glsecscouts.org.uk](mailto:csnc@glsecscouts.org.uk).

## Exciting new opportunities for Explorer Scouts

Two new opportunities are being created for Explorer Scouts in GLSE. Firstly, to take part in Sub Aqua training ranging from "try dives" to a full Padi open water diver qualifications.



The other is to sample the delights of "Off roading" and "green laning" in 4x4 vehicles operated by "Scouts off Road" members in and around the South of England. This activity is provided by members of the Scout Network.

## Programmes online - [www.scouts.org.uk/pol](http://www.scouts.org.uk/pol)

Programmes online is a fantastic resource with 100s of planned programmes. Log on today and have a look!



## Campdowne 2008



After nearly 4 years of planning, it's finished - 10 days of fun, challenges and adventure all over.

Thank you to everyone who helped make CD08 the fantastic success it was, from the staff, to the off site activities teams but, most of all, to the participants who came along with an open mind, ready to challenge themselves and to form new friendships with people from the other side of the world.

As usual we had a lot of support from staff, participants, leaders and friends from GLSE - so thanks to you all. If you want to keep in touch with your new friends, join the Message Board by visiting [www.campdowne.org](http://www.campdowne.org). After dancing, singing, running, driving, playing, swinging, sliding, trekking, hiking, eating, drinking, walking, scrambling, falling, talking, floating, sinking, swimming, shooting, sledging, sailing, drumming, bouncing, branding and just being at Campdowne 2008, we thank you and look forward to seeing you at the next one!

## Does your group have enough leaders? Are you finding it difficult to keep leaders? Are you looking for someone to take on a new role?

All these questions frequently recur – but do you have the answers? Have you considered why your leaders and helpers are moving on? Recruitment and retention is an ongoing concern as we lose as many adult members as we recruit but recent volunteering surveys carried out within the UK suggests that the number of people volunteering is increasing. However, as people find they have more and more demands on their time, the way they volunteer is changing; not everyone can offer a weekly commitment.

Prior to actively recruiting, a few thoughts that you might like to consider and which might give you an insight into the lack of volunteers in your group or district:



Think back to those who have recently moved on –

Were they appreciated? The dictionary definition of appreciation is the 'assessment of the true worth or value of persons'. Were their own personal skills and abilities put to good use or were they given unfulfilling tasks?

Were they given support in their new role? Did reality match their expectations? Whether as a helper or a prospective warranted leader they need to feel part of a team – who to go to for advice. Was anyone there to help and advise them?

Were the aims of Scouting explained in full? How their personal development could be enhanced through the Adult Training Scheme.

Only by putting your own house in order will you be able to build on the strengths of your existing team – with everyone being a player and their skills, qualities and potential being recognised.

Anyone who volunteers needs to feel welcome, well used and accepted as their reward is not through a pay packet but through our organisation – Scouting. Only by meeting these criteria can we then go forward with our recruitment strategy – **watch this space!!**

Join the **adventure**  
The Scout Association

Find out about the adventure of  
Scouting in GLSE by visiting  
[www.glsecscouts.org.uk/adventure](http://www.glsecscouts.org.uk/adventure)

