

THE DART SCOUT

www.dartfordscouts.org.uk

Issue 17 February 2015

WELCOME

Here we are in February and I was hoping to be able to have a clear idea of the size of the district through Compass, but as you are all hopefully aware Compass has been taken offline whilst some security checks are carried out. This has an impact on the census this year. But HQ are working on opening up the Youth Data Upload facility again so we can continue to upload the missing sections. Before Compass was taken offline, about 75% of the district returns had been made.

What I need every GSL and section leader to do is prepare their youth data upload if it has not already been done and then keep track of all changes to either the already uploaded data or yet to be uploaded data as I am sure once the system is ready for use again then census window will be quite small.

DBS checks Again, this facility is not available at the moment, so again please keep track of where we are and who needs checks.

We will post the updates from HQ on the Facebook page for the district, if you are not a Facebook user, you can follow the updates on www.scouts.org.uk/compass

Once again thank you for all of your support over the past few months.

Leigh Villiers
District Commissioner

BEAVER NEWS

Science Day

Saturday 7th February at Oasis Academy. Please can I ask those Colonies attending the morning session to arrive no later than 9.45 am and the afternoon session to arrive no later than 1.45 pm. I will send out an email nearer the time to confirm where we are to meet.

District Bear

Don't forget to let me know when your Colonies would like him to join in any activities you are doing. Just make sure you email me the photos of him joining in so I can pass to County.



There are a few sleepovers coming up in February, I hope everyone has a good time and that the weather stays nice for you, I look forward to hearing about them.

Jacqui Wilkinson
ADC Beavers

SCOUT NEWS

Thank you to those leaders that supported our Leaders meeting in January. Really good feedback on events and the programme for the year is being updated to reflect this including a sports day and tug of war. We discussed the New Programme which looks exciting. We are looking at running a leadership course for older Scouts to reflect the new award scheme. More information, and request for help coming soon.

We have a really full programme for 2015 - I look forward to working with you all to providing exciting scouting for the young people of Dartford. Thank you to everyone for all they do for the young people of Dartford.

New dates for your diary

Scout Tug of War - 10th July

Scout Sports Day - 26th September

Gavin Jessup
ADC Scouts

EXPLORER NEWS

We are busy planning your events for the year, but we want to hear from you what things you want to do as a district.

Let me know on explorers@dartfordscouts.org.uk

Monopoly run is all taking shape! It is going to be a fantastic event and one not to miss. So if you haven't booked your places do so quick as time is running out. Remember your deadline is 1st March.

I am slowly working my way around to units so don't be afraid to say hello.

Badges and Awards are a big part of our scouting and there are many challenges for you to complete as an explorer. If you fancy having a go then speak to your leaders and let them know. You can find all badge info at

<https://members.scouts.org.uk/supportresources/search/?cat=9,88,783>

I know some of you may do DofE through school as well and we are keen to get people involved through scouting. If you fancy it let us know and we will do all we can to help ☺

Emily Burland
District Explorer Scout Commissioner

ADULT TRAINING

Training is up and running throughout the cluster, if you need a specific course please let me know. Some training modules have changed due to the new programs please speak to your T.A or group scout leader for details.

Contact me direct on training@dartfordscouts.org.uk

First Aid

British Red Cross First Aid Courses:

1st Feb Swanley
15th Feb Tonbridge
22nd Feb Sevenoaks
22nd March Dartford.

Getting Started

22nd February at Scout house, Broomhill road, Dartford. 9 am-3 pm

Module 38

SKILLS FOR RESIDENTIAL EXPERIENCES

DATE; 7pm Friday 27th March 2015 to 3pm Sunday 29th March 2015

LOCATION; 4th Sevenoaks (St Johns) Scout Hut

Mill Lane, Sevenoaks, TN14 5BX

Please complete and return the module 38-application form.

As usual please contact me for any training queries.

Sue Martin
Local Training Manager

APPOINTMENTS

The Appointments Committee met on Tuesday 27th January 2015 and approved the following new appointments:

Samantha Joanne Clark	ACSL	Stone (Elm) Pack
Deborah Anne Ray	ABSL	3rd Dartford Mississippi
Lisa Sarah Wood	ACSL	1st Galley Hill Pack
Barry John Fukes	ASL	Stone Everard Troop
Christopher Paul Partridge	Sectional Assistant (Beavers)	Stone Rawhide Colony
Terance Hackman	Sectional Assistant (Cubs)	1st Galley Hill Pack

Also the following change of Appointments

Stephen Newton	SL to GSL	Cambria Sea Scouts
Steven Askew	CSA to ASL	Cambria Sea Scouts
Alan Ball	SL & GSL	Stone
Edward Raymond	ASL to ESL	Phantom Explorer Unit
Renee Francis	ASL to ESL	Phantom Explorer Unit
Katie Louise Thompson	OCH to Sectional Assistant	Stone
Nicole Ball	BSL to ABSL	Brent (6th Dartford)
Joshua Anscorb	ABSL to BSL	Brent (6th Dartford)
Tim Roscoe	ASL to SL	5th Dartford Earley Troop
Delia Davidson	ACSL to ASL	5th Dartford Earley Troop

Peter McLean

Appointments Secretary

DARTJAM

Please remember to get your numbers in for DartJam, deposits should be made ASAP using the information on the district website.

DartJam Team

DASCO

On Sunday 25th January 17 DASCO members and lapsed members plus a dog had a pleasant if cold walk along the banks of the river Medway. We started at the Riverside Country Park at Lower Twydall, passed Bloors Wharf, rounded Motney Hill and returned via Berengrave country park a little inland. A bit over 5 miles it was just right to 'get us going' after the Christmas excesses!

Many thanks to Margaret for organizing this walk and continuing to do so for future walks. Seven Dasco members are going to Thurlby in Lincolnshire for the Easter break.

S.A.S

We continue to meet on the first Wednesday of the month and are willing to help out where needed. (If we can) Bronze, Silver awards and J.O.T.T. are already pencilled in! Scout House is still not seeing many customers for the shop. Its profits go to District funds and help keep Capitation down! Please encourage parents to use it

Ashely Hambrige

NEW DISTRICT CALENDAR

Over the last month we have moved our online calendar onto a Google Calendar. Not only is this now more user friendly on our website but you are now able to add events and meetings to your own calendar, or download the full calendar to your laptop or mobile device. All of these will automatically update when we update the event and add details.

You can find the calendar and all the settings to add it to your laptop or mobile device at <http://www.dartfordscouts.org.uk/page-calendar.html>

If you need help in setting this up, email me at matthew.gibson@kentscouts.org.uk.

We are always interested in hearing and seeing what you are getting upto in your meetings to showcase on our website and social media. Get in touch if you have anything to share!

Matt Gibson
ADC Communications & Media

GILWELL PARK

Many Leaders in Dartford will have heard of Gilwell and a good number have visited but how many know the history of Gilwell. I have just recently been given some old material including a programme for Gilwell Reunion held in Queensland, Australia in 1980, and the programme included what I thought was a nice history of Gilwell Park.

1918 was drawing to a close. The world had been at war. The Scout Movement was ten years old and growing fast when a stranger walked into Imperial Scout Headquarters with an offer that would change the course of Scouting.

William F de Bols McLaren, District Commissioner for Roseneath, Dumbartonshire offered "to provide a camping ground for Scouts at some convenient centre within easy reach of London." A coincidence as, at that time, the Commissioner for East London, P.B. Nevill, was spending most of his free time touring Essex on his motor bike looking for "a roomy site not too far away" for the Scouts of his District.

Many have claimed to have "discovered" Gilwell but it is quite clear it was a young Assistant Scoutmaster from Bethnal Green by the name of John Gayfar who told P.B. Nevill about the run-down estate in Epping Forest where he often went bird watching.

MacLaren put up the full cost of the site which came to £10,000 (£7,000 purchase price plus £3,000 for essential repairs) and Gilwell Park was born.

Beads and Tartan

But there is more than just history in Gilwell. There is tradition that is more than pure history and that is the basis of our Movement.

When Baden-Powell wanted a badge to give to his trained Scoutmasters he remembered two things. He recalled a vast necklace that he had been given in 1888 by a Zulu Chief and which consisted of more than 1,000 yellow wood beads and he remembered that during the siege of Mafeking an old South African had given him a leather thong for luck. Here was the movement's Wood Badge, B-P's Wood Badge and Gilwell's Wood Badge, for the Adult Leader Training Award and Gilwell Park are inseparable.

The Gilwell scarf, pinkish-grey with a square of the Maclaren tartan at the point, commemorates the founder of the Park and denoting a member of the 1st Gilwell Park Scout Group, the only Scout Group with no young people.