

GREATER LONDON SOUTH EAST SCOUTS

A2o Link Newsletter



www.glsescouts.org.uk

December 2009

Message from the County Commissioner

As the festive period approaches I'm sure you and your young people are counting down to the fun and participating in activities to match!

I must say a huge thank you to those that arranged Camp America for us in October. I know that everyone that went had an awesome time! There is more about the fun had there in this newsletter.

A huge congratulations must go to all of the section leaders and their assistants - the number of young people enjoying Scouting in the County has gone up by over 10%! That is amazing and really shows you are providing great programmes with the challenge, fun and adventure which is needed. Well done!

I'm sure you'll agree we have had a very good year and that next year will bring fresh challenges for us to overcome. I look forward to another year of trying to make your roles in Scouting easier - and remember to let me know how I can do this!

Enjoy the festive period with your friends and families and the break you deserve and I look forward to seeing you all refreshed and raring to go in the New Year!

Skiing Come and Try It Session

A Tuesday in mid-September saw 10 brave Scout leaders, representing all sections, arriving at Bromley Ski Centre, for the first of the Activities Team "Come and Try It" sessions, funded by the County. These one-off opportunities are aimed at introducing leaders to activity possibilities they may not previously have considered for their groups. This group ventured forth, some of them with a certain trepidation and discovered for themselves the exhilaration of sliding down hill on a matching pair of planks, securely strapped to their feet... aka skiing! The hour long session introduced them to essential foundation skills and their progress was such that they had all but outgrown the nursery slope by the end of the lesson. Amid the focus and concentration of the group, a lot of laughs were had and everyone went away with a sense of achievement. The session was followed by a drink in the bar and a briefing on activity possibilities for skiing within the 6-25 Programme and there are already plans afoot (forgive the pun!) for many of those attending to bring their own groups down to Bromley Ski Centre to try out a ski session for themselves.

Fran Georgel
Snowsports Adviser



Training Update

This term twenty-four leaders attended the first set of modules (5,6,7,8,9 and 14) in September. Another thirty for the next set of modules (11,12,13,15,18 and 19) in October.

Five leaders attended the managers' modules run in conjunction with our friends in GLMW. A further two attended module 21 in October. All district advisory Appointments sub-Committees have had at least three members inducted into the appointments process by attending module 37.

The next set of Child Protection Workshops are in full swing. Erith and Crayford, Bromley, Chislehurst and Sidcup have been completed. 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 in districts will be available around the County between now and May 2010.

The attendance on First Aid Courses has improved. The last two have been full with the maximum number of fourteen. Can I please remind everyone that the closing date for all courses is fourteen days before they start when Trisha Webb must receive application forms and deposits. Only once these have been received will a place be guaranteed. With the present postal conditions - send off as early as possible! All courses will only go ahead if there is a minimum of ten participants.

Congratulations to the Leaders in Bromley and Chislehurst districts who have completed their Wood Badge training.

The 2010 training programme will be available shortly and 2011 has been drafted. We hope to be able to make available application forms electronically. All details will be available on the County website or as part of a printed brochure.

On 24th January 2010 a training conference will be held for all Local Training Managers, Training Advisors and the Training Team. It is important that all attend as the next part of the ongoing training strategy is to strengthen, update and co-ordinate training support within the County.

Any questions or queries please contact me. Booking enquiries to Trisha Webb at trainingadmin@glscouts.org.uk

Mark Knill
County Training Manager
training@glscouts.org.uk

MESH 2009

The last weekend of September saw the annual Explorer Scout MESH weekend at Downe Activity Centre. This was the 5th MESH, as ever organised by the Chislehurst District Explorer team and the theme was The Future. MESH (Mix-in Explorer Scout Holiday) was started 5 years ago to continue a Mix-in camp tradition of Venture Scouts.



This year's camp fell on the same weekend as Downe Activity Centre's 80th birthday celebration weekend and activities were shared.

No less than 120 Explorer Scouts together with 30 leaders and Networkers attended the weekend and we were blessed with some of the finest weather of the summer.

The Friday night kicked off with the Starship Mesh flying into the arena in a shower of sparks officially opening the camp.

Activities included experiments performed by the Science Museum, sci-fi film making, Downe's varied on-site activities, rocket building and more. The Explorers were all split up into teams to encourage meeting new friends.

Saturday night saw us join in with Downe's birthday celebrations with a fantastic BBQ, live band and a silent disco to end the night.

A fantastic weekend was had and I would once again like to thank all the organising team and Downe Activity Centre for making it so successful.



Next year's venue is the same, the date for MESH 6 is Friday 24th – Sunday 26th September 2010 and the theme is Circus.

It would be great to have more GLSE Explorers there to really make it a true County event and we would welcome any help and new ideas on the organising team. Just give me an email.

Steve "Bert" Pegram
County Explorer Scout Leader
explorers@glscouts.org.uk

Austria 2010

My first six months as the expedition leader has flown past. I am very pleased to say we now have 500 confirmed bookings for our trip to Austria next summer. Not only do we have Scouts from GLSE but we have now been joined by troops from Barnet in North London and Hastings.



Between the whole team, we have carried out over 15 presentations to various districts and groups around the County. Jeka have been very flexible and are keeping us updated on how many places are still available in the Lechtal Valley, we therefore plan to try to accommodate last bookings until 31st December.

During a pre-visit to Austria this summer, we were able to meet the staff from Jeka and see how they cope with many groups arriving in the height of season. We spoke with the groups and leaders to get their experiences of Jeka and the feedback was very positive. One of the coach drivers we met was in his 28th season of visiting Austria with Jeka; thankfully the coaches are considerably newer, fitted with toilets, fridges and DVD players!

All the scouts and leaders we spoke to were more than happy with the quantity and quality of the food provided - Jeka are very well organised. The accommodation is clean and full of character, each village having a large outdoor communal area for meeting up for games.

Our visit also included the opportunity to go with a group to white water rafting - unfortunately not enough time to take part - but listened to the safety talks which were clearly given in English. Extreme canyoning was a short drive from the villages; once kitted out in wetsuits and helmets, the group we were with had a mile walk to the start of the canyoning and were then able to successfully traverse down the river. The river is controlled by hydro electrics keeping a steady flow of water, ready for jumping into pools and coming down waterfalls. I guarantee the alpine coaster is an unforgettable experience.

We are currently booked to stay in Stanzach, Bach/Elbigenalp and Elmen, every village has brilliant walks and cycle paths the length of the valley. There are open air swimming pools nearby to most villages. We are also planning to take part in a local community project and have made contact with the local Scout groups.

Carol Jackson
2010 Expedition Manager
2010manager@glscouts.org.uk

Austria Newsletter

Download the latest Austria - Go for It Newsletter with all the latest news on the expedition from:
<http://www.glscouts.org.uk/austriagoforit>

Thumbs up for Camp America!



Camp America took place at Cudham over the weekend 10/11th October and was hailed a success. 375 young people joined us to enjoy quad biking, F1 simulator, air simulator, bouncy castles, workshops, Segways and much, much more. We fed 400 people on Saturday evening and just managed to finish before the light faded and the disco began. For the adults there was a casino. The weekend ended with more activities including football with Charlton and a snowball fight.

This was the first County event for some time and everyone who attended had a fantastic time.

Ann Beard - Event Manager



Awards

Award for Merit



- Miss Caroline Cooke - East Wickham & Welling
- Mrs Marion Hockey - East Wickham & Welling
- Mrs Anne Rickson - East Wickham & Welling
- Mr John Waters - East Wickham & Welling
- Mrs Karen Smith- Erith & Crayford
- Mr Bruce Manning - Bromley
- Mr Douglas Ramsey - Bromley

Chief Scout's Commendation For Good Service



- Mr Raymond Beard - Bexleyheath
- Mr Graham Brown - Orpington
- Mrs Susan Hazell - Bexleyheath
- Mr Mike Eames - Bromley
- Mr Nick Hudson - Bromley
- Mr Robin Hogg - Bromley

Scout Aviation Centre

Most of you will already be aware the Scout Aviation Centre, based in the grounds of Biggin Hill Airport is unique in many ways - being based in the grounds of an active airport and having close co-operation with Biggin Hill Airport Limited a (BHAL) and organising and assessing Air Activity badges for ALL sections .

One of the most popular new developments in the Centre is the computerisation of the Comet Flight simulator, transforming it from a toy for our younger sections to a real flying experience. This project is fully GLSE motivated and the use of the simulator is increasingly requested as an 'add on' to the badge courses for Scouts and Explorers. The Centre is one of the very few places remaining in the Country able to fly Scouts within the terms of POR and with formal agreement from our National Air Adviser.

We are happy to arrange courses, tours or flight simulator sessions subject to sufficient available cover. Please remember that at all times, section leaders are responsible for their young people – Committee members are only acting as instructors and assessors, although they do oversee health and safety. Flight experiences are scheduled for spring 2010 subject to being POR compliant at the time and weather conditions.

Henk van Welsenens
henkvanwelsenens@aol.com

The 2010 SAC Programme can now be viewed online:
<http://www.glsescouts.org.uk/forum/viewtopic.php?t=605>

Next Newsletter - Your Articles Welcome!

If you have any articles or news, please send them to newsletter@glscouts.org.uk. All articles for the next newsletter must be received by 15th March 2010.

County Diary 2010

January

- 4th - District Commissioners Forum
- 6th - International Working Group
- 7th - County Team
- 11th - Activities Adv & Ass
 - Child Protection Workshop
- 13th - Fundraising sub-Committee
 - ADC (Scouts) Meeting
- 14th - LBB Small Grants Board
- 16th - Programme Working Group
 - First Aid Training
- 17th - Senior Management Team
- 18th - County Executive Committee
- 20th - QSA Working Group
- 23rd - Austria Staff Day
- 23rd - Module 25
- 24th - Adult Training Conference
- 25th - D of E Working Group
- 27th - ADC (BS) & ADC (CS) Meeting
 - Child Protection Workshop

February

- 6th - Module 28, YOU Bromley Launch
- 7th - Module 29
- 8th - Finance sub-Committee
- 9th - Austria Unit Leaders Meeting
- 10th - Employment sub-Committee
- 11th - Senior Management Team
- 12th - Kayak 'Have a Go' Day
- 16th - Appointments Advisory Committee
 - Development Working Group
- 21st - Open District Commissioners Forum
- 25th - Child Protection Workshop
- 26th - WSJ Unit Participant Selection
- 27th - WSJ Unit Participant Selection
 - Modules 5,9,14
- 28th - WSJ Unit Participant Selection
 - Modules 6,7,8

March

- 1st - Senior Management Meeting
- 3rd - International Working Group
- 6th - Adult Support Day
- 8th - County Executive
- 13th - Module 16, Module 17
- 15th - A20 Newsletter Deadline
 - Child Protection Workshop
- 17th - Fundraising sub-Committee
- 19th - 21st YL Training
- 21st - Young Leader Training
 - First Aid Training
- 24th - Module 37
- 27th-28th - Module 16, Module 17
- 30th - District Commissioner Forum
- 31st - County Team Meeting



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i.KAYAK
i.SCOUT
WILL YOU?

www.glsescouts.org.uk/adventure

08444 142 769

