

Issue 9 October 2015



Greater London South East Scouts Newsletter

GLSE_Scouts

www.glsescouts.org.uk



and more...



CC's Corner

Since my last CC's Corner the structure of the County Team has been reviewed and modified. The structure of the team is now primarily focussed in providing training and support to Adult Volunteers and Young Leaders.

However there is still a necessity to support the delivery of programme especially in the area of international events so, with the agreement of the DCs, the County Team will still deliver annual Explorer Belt opportunities and occasional international events for all of our members. We are now recruiting volunteers into the modified roles at DCC, ACC, Project/Event Manager and Adviser levels. It is important that we appoint the right people to these roles so that we can provide an appropriate level of support to Section, Group and District Leaders.

Gwyn Muckelt, Deputy County Commissioner (Adult Support), has stepped down as she needed to focus on her professional development. Gwyn has been a stalwart of the County SMT for some years and continues to support the County as an LTM and the County Compass Champion. Gwyn has my sincere thanks for supporting me in my first year and I wish her every success in her future professional and Scouting careers. Obviously this has created a significant gap on the County SMT and we need to appoint a new DCC Adult Support to help recruit and lead a team of three ACCs (Communications, Development & Adult Support). If you are interested in the DCC role or any of the ACC roles please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss the role further.

I am still looking for the right person to appoint as Deputy County Commissioner (Programme) to lead a team of 5 ACCs (6-14, 14-25, Top Awards, International & Adventurous Activities). If you are interested in the DCC or ACC 6-14 roles please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss the role further.

John Baxter and Judith Freeman are now sharing the role of temporary County Training Manager until July 2016 to ensure that training continues to be delivered. This allows the County time to appoint a new CTM to lead our team of LTMs and TAs. John and Judith will be providing support to the newly appointed CTM. If you are interested in this role please do not hesitate to contact myself, John or Judith to discuss the role further.

The GSL Development project is now well under way with many of the GSLs having already had 1 to 1s with their DC and/or attending District led GSL conferences. The next phase is the County GSL Day on the 14th November.

The first Executive Training day has taken place with the County Executive as the guinea-pigs. All involved in the day found it to be a valuable experience as it clarified many things we thought we knew and highlighted a number of things that we didn't know or hadn't considered. John and Judith will shortly start scheduling training days for Section, Group and District Executive members.

The County has started to allot funding to Adventurous Activities. We will be delivering a subsidized archery course this autumn and a County Mountaineering weekend in the spring. However I have not received any requests for financial assistance from Leaders who want to achieve Scout permits and/or nationally recognised qualifications. If you are interested in undertaking training in any of the activities below please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss support funding.

Water (Canoeing, kayaking, sailing, windsurfing etc) Mountaineering (Hill walking, Climbing, Caving etc) Master at Arms (Archery, Air rifles, Crossbows etc)

If you are interested in being a member any of these teams, enhancing your qualifications and becoming an instructor, please contact an advisor or e-mail office@glsescouts.org. uk and the administrator will forward your e-mail to the relevant advisor.



IN THIS ISSUE:

CC's Corner	2
Bromley Youth Trust	3
My Jamboree Experience	4
My IST Experience	6
Japan Expedition 2015	8
SSU Media Training Weekend	10
4th Barnehurst Seeonee	
Cub Scout Group	11
MESH - The Gig	12
County Youth Commissioner	13
Local Voice	14
Jack Petchey	16
Scout Story Library	18

www.glsescouts.org.uk



GLSE Scouts

Bromley Youth Trust

Bromley Youth Trust has a self-drive 14 seat minibus which is available for hire. There is no mileage charge but they ask that fuel used is replaced. The minibus falls within the 3.5 tonne limit which means it can be driven by anyone who has held a full UK driving licence for at least two years.



They also operate "Rosanne", a 13 berth narrow boat, which was purpose built and equipped for youth groups. This is ideal for residential activities, team building and projects related to the environment. Accommodation is suitable for single sex or mixed groups and is ideal for ten young people and three leaders. Bromley Youth Trust provides training in the operation and use of the narrow boat. All safety and domestic equipment is provided.

Further information and contact details can be found on their website: www.bromleyyouthtrust.co.uk





My experience during the jamboree was above and beyond everything I expected. Waking up every morning being able to step to anywhere in the world and be able to make friends, understand cultures and create experiences was something simply unforgettable.

My experience didn't last 18 days as most think, it lasted two years. It was then when I met a group of crazy strangers who would later turn into 39 members of my family who I have grown and developed with.

We trained and bonded together and learnt all about Japanese culture and customs. This was in preparation to embark on this amazing adventure to the 23rd World Scout Jamboree being held in Japan.

After an eventful travelling time of over 24 hours we arrived at our home hospitality destination of Okinawa. Although we were extremely tired from our journey, this was soon forgotten when we were met by some Okinawan Scouts and our host families who entertained us with a fantastic welcoming ceremony. For the next two nights the experiences failed to end. We then set off to the biggest part of our adventure-the jamboree site.





There were endless opportunities to have fun or make friends from morning until night. A continuous and growing adventure. Even within my unit I felt that I grew closer and stronger bonds with my friends whilst creating many new ones with Scouts from all over the world. After the fantastic time we had at the jamboree we ended our journey with in Tokyo with many activities such as the Tokyo Skytree and an earthquake simulator. Then it was time to go back home.



I loved every second. I don't think that this could ever be defined as a holiday - it is an experience that stays with you forever and changes the person for the better. It is hard to explain the jamboree experience to someone, but it was just simply amazing.









I was fortunate enough to be selected to take part in the 23rd World Jamboree in Kiara-Hama, Yamaguchi, Japan as a member of the UK International Service Team.

"WA: a Spirit of Unity" was the theme for the Jamboree and (WA) embraces many meanings such as unity, harmony, cooperation, friendship and peace. The theme certainly encompasses what the Jamboree experience is all about and this was truly evident at the event.

35,000 Young People and 10,000 adults from 150 countries throughout the globe attended the Jamboree, the majority of which had spent two years preparing for the event and, in the case of the participants, attending many training camps to prepare them for the fantastic journey of adventure they were embarking on.

The International Service Team (IST), was made up of adult volunteers from all over the world who ran the activities and services at the Jamboree on behalf of the organizers. I, for my part, was allocated a role on one of the Sub Camps; however, other roles included, onsite programmes such as Cross Road of Culture (CRC), City of Science (COS), Global Development Village (GDV) and Faiths and Beliefs Zone; offsite activities such as Peace Memorial Ceremony in Hiroshima, Community Services, Exploring Nature together with Water Activities, Site Management, Transport, Food, and Trading.

The size of the site was amazing and to walk from one side to the other was 3 Kilometres. With temperatures of 51 degrees on occasions and humidity of between 90 to 100% I managed to lose the weight my wife was hoping for!!! The Jamboree site was, as you no doubt

realise, very large and there was no vehicle transport other than by foot - hence the loss of weight.

Before I went to the Jamboree, I really did not realise what effect it would have on me and what an amazing journey of adventure, discovery and fun for both myself and the participants. Many, many friendships were made with people from all over the globe and friendships that, I am sure, will last for a lifetime and ones that will create a better world.

Seeing the young people integrate with each other, having fun, working and talking with each other, despite language problems, is a truly amazing experience and something I will never forget. The social, economic and language barriers disappear immediately when they meet and all the young people get on so well with each other. It is certainly a lesson to be learnt by us adults. I would even go onto say that the young people at the Jamboree have shown the world that peace is possible and perhaps we, as adults, can learn a lot from them.

If you as a Scout or a Leader get the opportunity to go to a future Jamboree then grab it and embrace the opportunity to go on a fantastic journey of adventure where so many life-long friendships are forged - where friendships with other young people and adults from all over the world are made and one you should not miss. The next Jamboree is in the US and, no doubt, will be a magnificent adventure. Don't miss out on what is truly a chance of a lifetime.





Japan Expedition 2015

by Catie Owen, Phoenix Explorers

Two years ago when I was originally selected for the 2015 Japan Expedition, I knew very little of what I would be getting up to besides a rough itinerary. I knew the people I would be travelling with even less. Now that we have returned from the expedition I can easily say that it was the best experience of my life.



We spent thirteen days in Japan including five staying in a Tokyo hotel. Before this, we spent the majority of our trip travelling across the island from Osaka to the capital city. However, the very first day was spent visiting the Jamboree as day-visitors. Getting the opportunity to meet so many people from different countries as well as sampling the vibrant and happy atmosphere of the Jamboree itself was an excellent starting point for the expedition: setting the tone for the days to come.

Next we travelled to Hikari City to reunite with the Mayor and some of the students who had visited us in Orpington a year earlier. We were welcomed warmly and ate Japanese interpretations of traditional British dishes such as fish and chips and beef stew. After a brilliant welcoming ceremony which included a drums display, we met our respective host families with whom we would be staying until the next morning. When we came back together on the mini-bus ready to visit some Hikari schools, we all had different stories to tell such as visits to the karaoke bars, spas, shrines and night time walks on a beach lit up with thousands of colours.

The schools and students greeted us equally warmly. On reflection, many of my group commented that they felt like celebrities as, on arrival, we were met by cheering and clapping people on both sides of us. The tours were also very busy as we rushed to several different locations engaging in various activities such as a museum visit, using bamboo stilts, and watermelon smashing until finally, at the lodge where we were staying overnight, we were all treated to our own kimonos and experienced a summer festival set up by the students.



Next we visited Miyajima Island which is an island covered in shrines and is only accessible by ferry. Its famous Otoru gate stands proudly in surrounding ocean greeting the visitors on the ferry as they sail past. Here we spent several hours exploring the shrines and buying gifts for our families and friends as well as making several new friends; the local deer were surprisingly friendly.





After this we had the most incredible privilege of visiting Hiroshima Memorial Park on the day of the seventieth anniversary and just in time to witness the passing of the flame that had travelled around Japan. The visit also included some time in the memorial museum which had artefacts from victims alongside their stories. This was the most solemn part of the trip, but I feel that I am truly lucky to have had such an important experience on such an important date.

Just before we left for Tokyo we embarked on our climb of Mount Fuji. This too was a very important experience; however it was much more physically demanding. We were given packs of snacks to keep our energy levels up as we climbed. Most of the way up involved actual climbing of rocks or steep stairs embedded on the mountainside.

We reached the seventh station of nine after about five hours of climbing and rested for a few hours before waking at two in the morning to reach the summit for sunrise. Being above the clouds and watching the sun rise above them made me truly speechless. 'Beautiful' cannot justify how awesome the scenery was. The descent was easier; however it still took many hours.

Finally we arrived for our five days in Tokyo. Navigating the Metro took up a lot of time across the five days however each destination was worth the journey. This part of the trip was much more relaxed than the former and our activities made us appreciate what an expansive, diverse and pretty city Tokyo is. We met Asimo, the Honda robot, went to the oldest and largest Buddhist Temple in Tokyo, attended an Anime convention, petted some cats in a Cat Café, saw Pandas in Tokyo Zoo, and all dressed up for a nice dinner and some relaxing free time on Tokyo beach. Despite thinking we would not have time, we even managed to visit Tokyo Disneyland.

Having returned home, I was shocked to feel how much colder Britain is than Japan, where a fan is a constant necessity. After two weeks of a Japanese diet, knives and forks were almost alien to me as were my normal foods. However, we have all taken a lot more than nostalgia for the heat and an appreciation for Japanese cuisine home with us; we all have wonderful memories and have had life-changing experiences that are already helping to shape the brilliant people we will grow up to be, thanks to this opportunity of a lifetime.





SSU Media Training Weekend

by Sandya Dom, 14th Bromley

Early June this year fifteen Scouts took up the challenge of being trained in how to speak to the media. A weekend away gave them the skills needed to "Speak-up" about Scouting. A series of activities, including various broadcast and print scenarios, gave the participants a taste of what the journalistic world could hold.

Learning the skills to talk about Scouts to the media inspired them to get further involved, so they can help shape the face of Scouting in the public eye. The weekend also gave them a massive confidence boost to address a crowd, which some initially found quite challenging at the start of the weekend. By the end of the camp they found it a "breeze".

Getting a taste of "real life situations" made the whole "Speak-up" course one of a kind and engaging.

The participating Scouts reported that they would want to repeat this "amazing experience".

If the weekend were to repeat itself I, as one of the participants, would most certainly encourage others to attend an unforgettable camp. It will give scouts the unique opportunity to share their passion of scouting with the whole country.

Barnehurst Cub Scout Group has given its 100th Highest Award to one of it's Cubs



A hardworking Barnehurst Cub Scout Group has given its 100th Chief Scout's Silver Award to one of its Cub Scouts. Dylan Randall, who has been a Cub since November 2013, received his award from the Deputy County Commissioner Cubs for Bexley – Nigel Stockbridge - at a presentation last week during a group meeting.

The Chief Scout's Silver Award is the highest award available to Cub Scouts. It is gained by a Cub who completes each of the Global, Promise, Creative, Community, Outdoor and Fitness Challenges during their two years in Cubs. During this time they take part in a variety of outdoor, fitness, global and craft activities as well as several camps. Some of the

activities Dylan undertook included kayaking and sailing, learning emergency first aid and an evening visit to the Herstmonceux Observatory.

Each year, the unit offers a prize for the Cub who completes the most badge work over the summer months. In completing the award, Dylan won this year's competition and - he has also won Cub Of the Month for September.

4th Barnehurst Seeonee Cub Scout, Dylan Randall, aged 10, said "The best activities that we do at Cubs are the ones that we do when we are go camping as we do so many activities when we are there. I particularly enjoy climbing and the water activities. The biggest challenges that I faced was learning knots for the Pioneer Badge, and the hard gardening work for the Global Conservation Badge."

Cub Scout Leader, Steve Morley added: "Achieving these badges shows great dedication and also how strong the Movement is for challenging our young people. Well done to Dylan, and to all of the Cubs and Leaders, past and present, who have helped the Pack to achieve this magnificent milestone. I hope this encourages many more young people to get involved in Scouting, complete many more badges whilst having as much fun as possible."



Young Leader Training 20th-22nd November 2015

Following the demand for our Young Leader Training, we have expanded the programme to now run courses twice yearly. This course is now Full.

To register interest on future courses please see www.glsescouts.org.uk/youngleaders



On arrival at Downe Camp Site on Friday 11th having set up our tents and a quick snack before rushing off to see which units were staying this year we were all led by Mark Smith, who had organised MESH: The Gig, to a campfire further into the campsite where a screen was playing a video of rock legends such as ACDC, Metallica, Led Zepplin and Joan Jet.

At the campfire it was announced that Saturday night's entertainment would be a live band – The Rock Pins. After a beautiful fireworks display, we all settled into the main tent to watch Wayne's World.

After breakfast on Saturday morning and flag break and were sorted into teams. Ordinarily units are mixed up, however my Japan Expedition Unit was allowed to stay together. Brandishing our MESH bandanas that proudly displayed the colour of our team, we went for our first activity of the day - the leap of faith. We all knew the objective: to climb up the pole attached to a harness, stand on the platform and leap from the platform to a hanging trapeze. Watching the pole wobble as our teammates ascended made us all collectively nervous which only made us cheer each other on more. My teammates had all managed to climb confidently and most of them succeeded in grabbing the trapeze, however my own go was less triumphant as I proceeded to close my eyes and step off of the platform rather than chancing a leap, making for a highly amusing sight for my friends down below.



After crafting rock-themed jewellery for each other and embarrassing ourselves in the karaoke booth, we

revisited the harnesses and did crate stacking. Clinging onto our partners, we climbed towers of crates as made by the busy "stackers" whose jobs it was to place another crate on the second tower after we had stepped up onto the first, creating two very wobbly towers. After crate stacking we did archery before a well needed lunch.



After our final two activities, rock climbing and rifle shooting, we were all treated to a giant barbeque prepared

by the leaders and mentors. Then, it was time to get ready for the Saturday night entertainment. In previous years we all got dressed up according to the theme and enjoyed a silent disco. Therefore this year's live band was different and very exciting. The band had their own light show and played rock hits both old and new that everyone enjoyed. Due to the mixing up of units into groups earlier on, everybody danced together and left for a massive campfire once the concert had finished.

The next morning we all met for flag break once more before departing for drop-in activities. My group chose crate stacking and archery again, all discussing the success of the party the night before. Tired but still buzzing, we packed our kit away and said our goodbyes. For my Japan Expedition Unit, these were tearful but joyful goodbyes as our fantastic reunion came to an end.

by Catie Owen, Phoenix Explorers

COULD YOU TAKE ON THE CHALLENGE OF **COUNTY YOUTH COMMISSIONER?**

Greater London South East County Youth Commissioner

An exciting opportunity to be a part of the County Team Nominate yourself or someone else - deadline is the 1st December 2015

Are you passionate about youth involvement? Can you champion, encourage and lead our County towards Vision 2018? Could you work with the County Commissioner and County Team to make sure young people have a meaningful voice in the future of Scouting in Greater London South East? Or do you know someone who could?

Applicants need to be

18 - 24 years old Able to lead and motivate others Enthusiastic and engaging

For more information or to nominate someone contact the County Office by emailing office@glsescouts.org.uk

www.glsescouts.org.uk







making a positive difference to the lives of our young people

Councillors come on board in support of local Scouts

Saturday 10th October saw Councillors from across Bromley and Bexley join local Scouts to experience everyday adventure.

At Downe Activity Centre – near Biggin Hill - the Councillors completed challenges including abseiling, zipwire, archery, backwoods cooking and high all aboard – where up to 4 people climb to the top of one post and stand on the same platform.

The event was hosted by a group of Bromley and Bexley Scouts aged 13 to 18 and was aimed at introducing the local Councillors to all the fantastic things Scouting has to offer.

Cllr Christine Catterall from the East Wickham Ward, commented "It was a very enjoyable day trying out some of the activities on offer at Downe. The event was great fun and it was lovely to see the youngsters

enjoying themselves on the climbing wall and the zip wire. We were very well looked after by the Scouts who cheerfully showed us around and answered all our questions."



Cllr Teresa Ball from Cray Valley East, commented "As the Council's representative for the London Youth Games, I have a good idea of the level of talent, dedication and self-motivation possessed by the young people in Bromley, and my time with the Scouts only confirmed this. They were very friendly and did an excellent job of welcoming me and making me feel safe even when I standing on top of a 13 metres pole! But I'd have to say my favourite part of the day was the zipwire, which was a unique way to enjoy the beautiful surroundings of the Downe Scout Activity Centre. I was surprised to learn that Scout leaders give their time to the organisation voluntarily and I hope that more adults would consider doing the same as Scouting is so clearly rewarding for everyone involved, regardless of age or gender.

Cllr Cafer Munur

Cllr Teresa Ball

Cllr Louie French from Falconwood & Welling Ward "A big thank you to GLSE Scouts for inviting me to the Local Voice Event where I met young people and volunteers from across the South East. The activities I experienced demonstrated that Scouting has a range of fun activities for youngsters from all backgrounds and also provides the setting for the creation of friendships that can last a lifetime. The adult volunteers who give up their free time for such a great cause are excellent and highlight the kind hearted nature of many residents in our local communities. I will certainly be recommending the Scouts to parents across Bexley and the South East."







Cllr Richard Scoates from Darwin Ward, commented, "I thought the day was really successful and I thoroughly enjoyed it. My favourite activity was the all aboard pole where you had to climb a tall vertical pole and work out how to fit four people on a small shaky platform high up - that was a big thrill. However, the thing I most took away from the event was the amazing young people who were filled with a great sense of confidence, purpose, and maturity which is to the great testament of the Scouting movement and to them as individuals.

of young people, but quite frankly, nothing could be further from the truth. We need to work together to ensure that the way Scouting equips young people to discover their individuality, and sense of achievement can be delivered to a wider audience. In addition, and equally as important, we need to publicise the shortage of adult volunteers, and the benefits of volunteering, so that the waiting list can be reduced so no one misses out."

14th Bromley Explorer Scout, Sandhya Dom, aged 14, said, "Once again another unforgettable day, being able to meet and speak with councillors was phenomenal, just one of the endless opportunities we get through Scouting."

There are currently over 5,200 young people aged 6 to 25 involved in Scouting in Bromley and Bexley and over 1,300 adult volunteers enabling those young people to have fun, challenge themselves and fulfill their potential.

Adult volunteers in Bromley and Bexley Scouting contribute 327,000 voluntary hours per year which, at minimum wage, would equate to £2.1million of paid youth social work.

Bromley and Bexley Scouts are calling on local Councillors to champion Scouting in their area, by supporting the groups to:

- * recruit more volunteers
- * build new relationships, with schools and businesses across the community
- * find new places to meet and enjoy Scouting

If you are interested in volunteering or want more information about Scouting in Bromley and Bexley, please contact our office on 08444 142 769 or email office@glsescouts.org.uk or visit www.glsescouts.org.uk.



We are now embarking on our sixth year of participation in the Jack Petchey Achievement Award Scheme and again we have 114 awards to be given out across the County within the next few months.



If you are still unsure as to how the Scheme works, access the Jack Petchey Foundation website. The scheme recognises the achievements of our young people (11 – 25 years) at the same time entitling them to £200 to spend on celebrating their success! Trips to the theatre, ice skating, celebratory meals at camp – all have had the opportunity to enjoy many such outings as a result.

This year's recipients saw their achievements celebrated at the Award Ceremony held on 15th October at BETHS Grammar School, Bexley. Again we enjoyed a memorable evening of entertainment which included performances by our own young people.

We were pleased to welcome the Mayor of Bexley, Cllr Sybil Camsey and Dean Jefferys, London Regional Commissioner

BEXLEY AWARD WINNERS SEPT 2014 - JUNE 2015

Sam Baines
Karl Baker
Scott Belcher
Matt Bulmer
Max Butterworth
Charles Joseph
Louis Coasby
Michael Donovan
Harry Dudley
Nathan Foster
Alfie Funnell-Cowan
Harry Funnell-Cowan
Molly Harwood
Conor Haswell
Harrison Hewitt

Nicholas Huggett Harvey Jenkins Sophie Kent David Kirk Jason Lucus Sarah Martin Max Mason Joe Maynard Jacob Mills Hailey Pickard **Dariusz Pienkos** Amy Rackstraw **Beth Rackstraw Robert Reeves** Clarke Russell Tom Shea

Louis Thomas Adam Thornborrow Joanna Thorpe Jamie Tunsley Carla Whitaker-Cook Jamie Williams Rhys Williams Aaran Williamson Joshua Yuill

LEADERS

Elaine Everson Howard Morgan Chris Russell Fred Umney









Bromley Award Winners Sept 2014 - June 2015

Cavan Abram Katie Ainscough Alexander Akinbile Lois Barker Lola Barnes Imogen Bell Sean Berry Aimee Bradley Jessica Brawn Will Cahill Sam Caller **Emily Cheverst** Adam Clark **Matthew Costa** Alex Craddock Anna Davey **Thomas Dawkins Emily Dawson** Arthur Doe Sam Durnford Robert Edgehill Oliver Farrell Jacob Fogarty Hannah Foster Assisi Foxon

Ben Georgel

Katie Giddins Archie Grant Amy Hale **Emily Hasling** Ellie Hearnden Ryan Helps Nathan Hodges Freddie Jasper Thomas Keeler Matthew Lamb Reece Lane **Dominic Laurence** Xander Laurence Theo Leverson-Grieg **Charlotte Limbrey Amy Lofting** Amy Lott Jack Lovie Cameron Macaulay Joe Marchant Malore Milchard Connor Miller Louise Moy **Dominic Mulhall** William Murch Fiona Murphy

James O'Donnell Rhianna Penfold **Christel Pretorius Amy Price** Maya Reber Max Riddings James Robinson Sarah Rowland **Abigail Scott James Seppings Carlo Smitas** Jessica Smith Joseph Spiteri **Matthew Swatton** Alfie Trill Alfy Walder Jessica Walker Tom Walker **Emily Watts**

LEADERS

James Coles Mike Cowan Gary Davis Rob Watson







Scout Story Library

The Scout Story Library is a website to which you can upload your story to which will then be directed to a member of the Gilwell Media Team who will then review your story; it will then be directed to a representative of you County or District communications team.



http://stories.scouts.org.uk/