



# Woodsmoke

*The news from around*

*Barking and Dagenham District*

April/May 2016

## Dodd's Deliberations

**Easter has been on gone, and the clocks have changed. It's now time to put the OUT in ScOUTing.**

I hope you have an active programme planned for the coming months, helping our young people reach their potential and gain their Chief Scout Awards.

Since the last edition the cold and dark nights have not stopped me getting out and about. I have been camping in the snow, sharpening up my knife skills, and learning how to instruct tomahawk throwing. Hopefully the better weather will allow me to share my new skills with others in the District.

One of the hi-lights for me was attending the Southern 50. The first time I took part I was 17, where I was part of a team with my long-time friend Richard Munns. Well that was quite a few years ago, and here we were back again but this time with our son's Tom and George entering in their own right. It was a proud moment to see them and our Explorers complete this gruelling event.

Our founders' day celebration was a great such success with over 140 young people and leaders taking part. My memories of the day are a beaver teaching me how to make a paper aeroplane, and Bronze DofE awards being presented by Peter Banks to many of our Explorers.

Looking forward our next District event is St Georges Day parade and I look forward to see you all there.

Dodds

**County Consultation - Thursday 21st April  
@ B&D District HQ**

7:15-8:00 for Leaders, Assistant Leaders, Section Assistants,

8:15 – 9:00 for GSL's, ADC's, Exec,

GLNE are setting up a number of consultation workshops to look at how they can support us, and what they should be focusing on. If you would like to find out more and have your say, then please attend.



# Dodd's Deliberations contd.

## 9.1 Notifications

For any meeting away from your hall please ensure you notify your sections ADC, and the DC in advance of your activity.

Example Email:

RE: 9.1 Notification

Please be advised that 33<sup>rd</sup> B&D Scouts are going Canoeing at Fairlop Waters on Saturday 2nd April.

Regards

### NAN Form

Please ensure you use the latest NAN form which is downloadable from our website or [Scouts.org.uk](http://Scouts.org.uk).

This needs to be sent to the DC, and Rose a minimum 7 days in advance of your camp.

## Appointments

### Could GSLs/leaders inform new leaders of the following

Could they please ask their referees if (a) they are willing to give them a reference and (b) check you put down on the form the referees current email addresses or postal address (if they do not have e-mail).

Some people are putting down names as referees without asking them first and then I am finding out that the person will not give a reference, either as a matter of policy or will not give a reference without the applicant's written permission. If they ask the referee beforehand, they will find out if they need to provide written consent (seems to apply to schools, colleges etc), can check if they have the correct email address and of course it is only polite as well!

Also, and this applies to everyone, it would be very useful if you could check your listing on Compass and update any change of phone numbers, email addresses etc.

Many thanks

Sue, Appointments Secretary

## Vacancies

**District Treasurer.** Angie will be stepping down from the role of Treasurer at our next AGM.

We really do need your help finding Angie's replacement. Please post of Facebook, ask your friends and mention it to work colleagues. There maybe someone you know who would like to volunteer but doesn't want the commitment of weekly meetings. They don't need to be accountants, just someone who can help us look after our incomings and outgoings.

**District Secretary.** We are also looking for a Secretary. Please ask on our behalf. You never know who is just waiting to be asked.

**Media and Communications Manager.** We are looking for someone to manage our media and communications. If you know someone who is a whizz on Twitter and Facebook, and has an interest in all forms of Media and Communications please let us know.

If you know anyone who would like to be considered for any of these roles, please contact Dodds for further information.

# Explorer Exploits

## Chief Scout Awards

Since March of 2015, we have been introducing to the explorer section, and indeed the District, a structured DofE provision, we have 20 young members on our role, and the others are working through Bronze at school, meaning every Explorer is involved with the award.



In December, the hard work of our young members, and the explorer leadership team paid a dividend, with seven Bronze awards being awarded, by the County.

The same seven, have now started silver and hopefully by April 2017 will have completed. We are very excited, by the way out young members have embraced this, they are soaking up everything we offer them, and it is a privilege, watching them grow, and find their way in life.

Some of you may be unaware that the DofE and our chief scouts award are so closely linked that it is virtually impossible to gain one without the other, so it was with a great sense of pride that I got to see the first ever (so I'm told) Platinum awards for Barking and Dagenham being this week at Gilwell. Your explorers work very hard for the awards, and to witness the presentation, for me is truly humbling, and makes it all worthwhile. There are more Explorers due to complete their awards very soon.

Silver DofE, brings with it a Diamond award, and there are currently seven members working toward Diamond. If they complete within the next year, then they will go on to Gold, and of course the big one, A Queens Scout Award, and although they could not possibly finish a QSA in the explorer section, they could be a third of the way through, when they move on, and I believe they have the drive and commitment to do it too.

# Explorer Exploits - Contd.

## Columbus-Bellahøj meet Boris Johnson

**On 7th March the explorers, the leaders, ADC Cubs and our DC, headed for city hall, to attend the last Mayors reception before the election.**

We arrived to drinks and snacks, all dead posh, and mixed with schools and community workers from all over our Borough, our very own mayor was in attendance, and spent a few minutes with our young members.



And a very big treat, although I'm not quite sure the explorers quite realised who or what they were, all the London Pearly Kings and Queens were there too, one cheeky chappie singing songs to them, while they stood there puzzled, 'crash band wallop, what picture, what a photograph' their faces were a picture, that's for sure.

Then the Mayor arrived, exactly as he is on the telly, he made his speech, all about London, nothing really political, he made some presentations for community leaders, no scouters among them, nothing new there!

And he got off the stage, came over to the explorers and spent the next 15 minutes with them, chatting and taking pictures, he paid them masses of attention, far more than anyone else, even the Pearly's.

The explorers, who were a little relaxed by the evening, and wondering what the fuss was about, left there buzzing, and excited, I think they caught a bit of Boris fever, and regardless of politics, a little of his addictive personality got to them all.

A fantastic evening out, a well-deserved evening out for our young members, they earned it,

They are Columbus-Bellahøj ESU, they are the Barking and Dagenham Explorers, and the whole of GLNE know it too!

Watch this space...

# Explorer Exploits - Contd.

## Explorer Winter Camp: January 2016

**Every year at this time the explorers get a little jumpy, and want to go out and camp, so when they asked me if they could passport, obviously I said yes, that way they get to go out and I get to stay in..... win win.**

This time though we thought we might test them a little, so the rules of camp were, they had to book it, programme it, cost it, get the money in, shop, keep the accounts, and do the camp!... no pressure.... Oh and the camp cost we set at £16 to make it accessible

The members of the youth committee took charge, and decided to run a scouting skill weekend, after looking around for a good price they settled for Fairmead in High Beech. They contacted Terry Longhurst, and seconded him in to help.



They arrived in pitch black on the Friday night, with Rob and I ensuring the equipment arrived with them, they were a little stunned when we stood back and let them get on with it, and a little more stunned when we drove away!

Saturday morning arrived and we returned to check on our intrepid young member, we had visions of the lord of the flies as we drove in, but no, they were all still talking to each other and shovelling a fry-up down their necks, nor realising that they needed to feed me and Anna, I pulled rank (obviously) and confiscated the last of the sausages..... Mwhaaa

The flag was broken and the explorers officially declared the camp open, Terry arrived, and then the programme began,

Knife Safety, Back to basics fire lighting, flint and steel (various other methods), Game preparation (Pidgeon) and Dutch oven cooking. And all this arranged by the explorers.

It was a packed fun filled day, very educational, and packed with transferrable scouting skills, as those of you at the founders day celebration would have seen. Dinner was Pidgeon Chinese stir fry and very nice it was too. The adults left at six and we left the explorers to chill for the rest of the weekend, they had a lay in until 9 on Sunday, a lazy breakfast, and took the camp apart at their leisure, and why not, it was their camp, and they could do as they pleased. More of the same please!



# Explorer Exploits - Contd.

## The Southern 50 Challenge

February saw the annual competition, in the uncompromising Chiltern Hills, and this year was the first attempt by Columbus-Bellahøj ESU, and the plan was to hopefully see them finish the gruelling 30k course.

We arrived on Friday night and settled our two teams in nice and early, as they had an early start.

Saturday morning, breakfast over, the teams were sent for kit check, they were rigorously checked, and any participants without the correct kit were stopped from hiking, all good for ours, and they were ready to go. We shipped them out to the start point in the mini bus, and they sat waiting for the start. At this

point it started to rain, not just a bit, but quite a lot and it rained, and rained and rained. Until Sunday morning, if any of you have hiked in the Chilterns, you will

know this is not good, and with a wind chill of -5 on top of the hills, it was going to be a pretty nasty competition. Our teams set out in good spirit, and we checked their progress and welfare from checkpoint to checkpoint throughout the competition. Although they were in physical pain, as you would be on a competition hike, and although they had never experienced anything like this before, they laughed and smiled their

way around the whole course, and were videoed skipping through a checkpoint believe it or not.

The explorers made it back and finished the course, no mean feat, they were tired but pretty ok considering, they, relaxed and had dinner,

Until Sunday, results day; the Barking and Dagenham Explorers, 8th and 10th out of 40 teams. They smashed it, on the first attempt, just under half the teams never finished, and many of them were experienced, and well-practiced.

We have a very gutsy group of explorers, whatever they do, and wherever they go, they always put in 100%, we are very proud of them, we hope you are too.



# Jill's Jottings



## Training

As you all know Amanda Skipworth has taken on the position of training administrator.

Recently we met up to find a way forward and hopefully get a few more woodbadges in the District.

For Module 1, 3, 5,6,7, Amanda will be chasing, encouraging, whatever you want to call it for new leaders and changes of roll to get these done. You will then be given a section based TA who will make sure you know what to do next.

All training dates are on the web site, District diary, and reminders sent to GSL's as well as in here so there is no excuse.

We are still hoping to run Safeguarding and First Aid within the District. If you do your First Aid else where you will need to send a copy of your certificate to Amanda to get it put onto compass.

When you signed up to be a leader you agreed to do your training, Dodds will be suspending/cancelling any appointments where this has not been fulfilled.

Looking forward to seeing you at St George's Parade.

Jill

## Helping to put the OUT in ScOUTing

For many years we have run a 3 Colony Sleepover with the 8th, 10th/18th and the 16th. This year's took place over the weekend of 2nd-3rd of April. The theme was "Who kidnapped the Easter Bunny?" With ransom notes and clues the beavers had great fun trying to solve the mystery, we're glad they did - fancy a world with no Easter Eggs!!! Our thanks go to Byron McNaughton for his help over the weekend.

Here are a few of the Beaver's comments on the weekend.

Fun

The BEST!

Amazing

Fantastic



Fantastic Fun  
Greatest!  
Amazing

# Beaver Bits



**Hello everyone. I hope that you are all keeping well.**

As usual the Beavers have been busy during the last couple of months. In February we celebrated Founders Day by coming together with all of the other sections in the District for a fun filled morning of scouting

skills, games, yummy treats and a good old sing song. It was great to see the Beavers teaching the Cubs, Scouts, Explorers and Leaders how to build spaghetti and marshmallow pioneering towers and I have never seen a loo roll stripped so quickly!

In March we held the District Handcraft Competition. As always our very talented Beaver Scouts showed just how clever they are with their brilliant models, drawings, decorating and painting. Congratulations go to the 9th Barking & Dagenham who took home



this year's trophy, Vixen for winning the Leaders Entry, the 6th Barking & Dagenham for winning the Colony Entry and a big well done to everyone for a fantastic effort.

Towards the end of March we had our annual Easter Egg Hunt over at Hargreaves. Lots of fun games, mud and a good old hunt took place. The weather was kind to us. It was cold, but at least it stayed dry. Mind you, our golf balls were hidden so well that not all of them could be found by the Beavers. Oh well, they'll be there for next year!



That's about it for now. Do send your articles in for Wood Smoke. It will be great to hear from the Beavers themselves this year. Especially as we have a big birthday coming up.

As always, Keep Beaver-ing Away!

Honest Leigh

ADC Beaver Scouts



# Cub Capers

Hi All you cubby people,

Hope you all well, we started off the year with the founder's day fun event, the Beavers, Cubs, and Scouts were split into groups led by the explorers to try out a number of things that normally would only be for their section. There were some great things going on so well done everyone for making the day happen and the enjoyment the children got. My own cubs and scouts want a repeat for next year.



We followed this up with the Handcraft completion, a wonderful display of new super heroes, small boxes for a chocolate and some marvellous paper plate animals, well done everyone and congratulations to the winners. If you have the trophy for Section C could I please have it to pass on to the winners.

I have been busy helping out with the other section, judging the cooking skills of the scouts at the Mark Sutton with the help of Ikki (10/18th), we both survived so their cooking wasn't too bad in fact some was really nice. Well done

Next I was cashier and number counter for the Beaver at their annual Easter Egg Hunt which was good fun seeing 53 Beavers playing games and then running around finding number golf balls to get a big egg.

We have loads of events coming up both District and County wise

## District

Cub Cyclist badge 16th April,  
St Georges Parade 24th April,  
Swimming event 30th April

## County

Kubadoo 17th July,  
Camp 23rd to 25th September.

That's it from me, I look forward to seeing you all at an event soon.

Take Care

**Chilly Akela Rosie**

P.S. Just to let you know Ken's treatment is going well. Thanks for all your kind words and wishes. x

# Bag Packing at Morrisons

On Saturday 13th February and Sunday 14th February the 6th and 10th/18th had 12 cubs and 2 Scouts were bag packing in the Morrison's store Dagenham. The three weekend event was organised by Paul Robinson (Shere khan) District Cub Scout leader, so Cub groups from the district can raise funds for the Cubs 100 celebrations.

The 6th and 10th/18th raised a total of £800 over the two days, we even had a visit from the Deputy Youth Commissioner Cameron Fraser who we also roped into packing a few bags....



## SAS report

**We are few in number but quite active.**

We have provided the refreshments for the carol service, had a Xmas lunch at Top Meadow, bought the food etc and provided assistance at Founders Activity Day both in the kitchen and with the activities and helped in arranging the funsplash/swimming event.

We have also helped out at Beaver Science Day at Hargreaves on 5th March, Scouts pioneering day on 19th March and the Easter Egg hunt for Beavers also on 19th.

Malcolm

# St Georges Day Parade and Service

This years Parade and Service takes place on Sunday 24th April at St Alban's Church, Dagenham at 3.30pm.

GSLs will soon receive the letter telling them the details of the march and times. This year we will be having the Salute taken before we go into the Service, this will take place just outside the Church.

I look forward to organising you into Parade formation as usual in Goresbrook Road. We meet start off from there at 2.45 so be there at 2.30 at the latest.

Steve May - Parade Marshal

## Do you ever find yourself in need of another pair of hands in an emergency?

The Scout Active Support (SAS) members are willing to stand in for your leaders in a time of difficulty.

Call Malcolm or Sue Beerling on 01708 459912.

This can not be a permanent arrangement, but could be of help in case of long term sickness, term-time holidays, etc.

## Facebook and Website

Don't forget to look at

[www.barking-dagenham-scouts.org.uk](http://www.barking-dagenham-scouts.org.uk)

This has various links including the latest NAN forms, District minutes, and Woodsmoke.



# District Diary April - May

## April

Monday 4th	Cub Leaders Meeting	Cub Leaders	District HQ
Wednesday 6th	Bronze Expedition Planning	Explorers	District HQ
Wednesday 6th	<b>Module 37 - Advising on Adult Appointments</b>		<b>County HQ</b>
Thursday 7th	Scout Leaders Meeting	Scout Leaders	District HQ
Friday 8th	Bronze Expedition Kit Check in	Explorers	District HQ
9th/10th	Bronze Expedition	Explorers	
Wednesday 13th	Young Leader Training	Young Leaders	District HQ
Saturday 16th	Cub Cyclist Badge	Cubs	District HQ
Thursday 21st	County Consultation	All Leaders	District HQ
Friday 22nd	St George Rehearsal	Flag Party	St Albans
Sunday 24th	St George's Parade and Service	All	St Albans
Monday 25th	Thriftwood Trustees' Meeting		Thriftwood
Saturday 30th	District Swimming Fun Splash	All	Beacontree Pool

## May

Wednesday 4th	Beaver Leaders Meeting	Beavers	District HQ
Thursday 5th	GSL's Meeting	GSLs	District HQ
Saturday 7th	Scoutivity	Scouts	Hargreaves
Sunday 8th	Beaver Cyclist Badge	Beavers	District HQ
Thursday 12th	Youth Development Sub Committee		District HQ
Saturday 14th	Module 17/18 - Practical Skills	County Training	Hargreaves
14th/15th	Waltham Walk Hiking Comp	Scouts/Explorers	Danbury
Wednesday 18th	Module 1 - Getting Started	District Training	17th HQ
Wednesday 18th	Silver Expedition Training	DofE	District HQ
Saturday 21st	Silver Expedition Training	DofE	District HQ
Saturday 21st	Module 16, 38 part 1	County Training	Hargreaves
Sunday 22nd	Module 16, 38 part 1	County Training	Hargreaves
Wednesday 25th	Silver Expedition Training	DofE	District HQ
Wednesday 25th	Thriftwood AGM	All	Thriftwood
Saturday 29th	Scout Skills Day	Scouts/Explorers	Hargreaves

**Remember -Woodsmoke is Bi Monthly!**  
Articles for the **June/July/August 2016** edition of Woodsmoke  
should be in by the

**24th June** at the latest  
Please let us know what your Group  
has been up to,  
with photos all the better.

The new schedule will be:  
**June/ July/August**  
**September/October**  
**November/December/January**  
**February/March**  
**April/ May**

*Thanks Steve May - Editor*  
Please email: [steveandjillmay87@hotmail.com](mailto:steveandjillmay87@hotmail.com)