

## Greenford & District Update - January 2018

Hello All

We hope 2018 is treating you well, bringing fresh beginnings and enthusiasm your way!

To start this update, we pay tribute to the work of Sue Miller, Secretary at 4<sup>th</sup> Greenford, and Yasmin Davies, Cub Leader at 23<sup>rd</sup> Wembley, who have gone home during the last 6 months. Both are sorely missed.

### Celebrations



Our Scouting family welcomes Kartaar Singh Chana to parents Kavneet and Sukhdev of 13<sup>th</sup> Southall (Sikh) Group. The Group have been celebrating their 20<sup>th</sup> Birthday with a number of events, including some inspiring speeches and memories with many of the founding members.

12<sup>th</sup> Northolt have been celebrating 50 years of the Group, with fireworks and cake in October. The party was also chance to present Monica Smith with her 50 year service award, and thank her for her outstanding contribution as a very active Secretary and Executive member throughout.

Paul Melhuish was presented with his 50 year service award at our annual Remembrance Day Parade in November. Apologies to Paul for the lack of cake, but we are looking for a volunteer to help organise and serve refreshments after the parade. Please let me know if you will be able to help with this following the Armistice Day Service on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2018.

More medals and awards were awarded to our fantastic leadership team; Rik Fox for 30 years' service, and Ian Chick was awarded his Commissioner's Commendation Award at the Adults Re-Boot & County AGM in September at Paccar. 1<sup>st</sup> Greenford held their own award ceremony for Lara Johnson who received her Award for Merit. Sarra Taylor-Brown of 9<sup>th</sup> Greenford was also presented with a 30 year service award.

Many thanks to the huge number of leaders who have given up their time to attend training courses. Tracey has the task of keeping all the training records up to date and keeping us on track (so please help her to do this!). With help from our training advisors, modules have been validated and Wood Beads awarded (or are on the way to you!)

Congratulations to 10<sup>th</sup> Northolt (John Chilton) on the launch of their Cub Section. This follows the success of three terms running their Beaver Colony. Well done to all the team.

## Updates

Thanks go to Min Brandon and Jim Dingwall who have done a great job managing Southall Activity Centre (SAC) over many years. Phil Thorn is the new Site Warden. The SAC team may be found on site on Thursday mornings, and would love you to join them if you have a few hours to spare – just let Phil know. Site security has been greatly improved by new fencing which looks great. A similar fence has also been built at the entrance to District Headquarters on Hill Rise.

Andrew Norman has taken over from Helen Hankins as Chair of the Appointments Committee. Thanks go to Helen for all her work in this role, and to Andrew for his work as ADC Scouts. Tom Miller will take the up the post of ADC Scouts. Bryan Payne is now dealing with DHQ Bookings, and continues to help with Minute taking at the District Executive Committee, as well as running The Brambles.

We were very sad to say goodbye to the Scout hut at 1<sup>st</sup> Southall (The Water Tower, Allenby Road). Following the closure of the group some time ago, a difficult decision was taken to sell the premises. Many thanks to Alan Bamford, Paul & Marian Melhuish for all the hard and complex work involved with the sale. The District Executive Committee is considering how the money from the disposal can be best used to support Scouting in the District both in the short and longer term.

## Events

Plans are already developing for a District Camp in October at Paccar – watch out for more details!

In October Rik lead 13 Scouts, supported by a fantastic team of adults to complete their Greenford & District Expedition Hikes in the Chilterns. We are looking forward to hearing more about this from the young people themselves at our District Presentation Evening on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March at 1<sup>st</sup> Greenford.

In December 187 Cubs visited Cadbury World, and 121 Beavers visited Paradise Wildlife Park. Thanks to all the leaders and Young Leaders who help with these trips, your contribution is much appreciated. I hope Santa is recovering!

Sadly Daljit and I missed the man in red, but we did get to visit Tim Kidd (UK Chief Commissioner of Scouting) and Matt Hyde (Chief Executive of Scouting UK) at Baden Powell House at the District Commissioners conference instead.

Leaders and Executive members attended a 'Grow Your Group' support session led by the Growth and Development Service. Six Groups and the District Executive were represented and have some resources and ideas to use in the future. Unfortunately due to the low turn-out of Groups, the second and third sessions have been cancelled.

A climbing course has been booked for the end of February, and filled by 12 keen adults looking forward to earning their climbing permits. 8 others are already on the list for the next course date. There are a few names on the wish list for canoeing and archery training. Please let Andy Appleby know if you are interested in doing Adventurous Activity Permits.

I'm looking forward to the District swimming gala at Hayes on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February, and the District Presentation Evening on March 10<sup>th</sup>. The District AGM will be on June 18<sup>th</sup>. Please put the dates in your diary, I'd love to see you all there!

### International

The highlight for many people during the summer was a trip to Kandersteg International Scout Camp in Switzerland, either on the expedition organised by the GLMW County team, or the separate trip organised by 8<sup>th</sup> Greenford Scout Group.

Congratulations go to the Greenford & District participants selected to attend the World Scout Jamboree in the USA in 2019. These include 6 contingent members; Isobel, Natasha and Claire from 1<sup>st</sup> Greenford; Aaron and Jayali from 13<sup>th</sup> Southall; and Sophie from Primus Explorer Unit; Contingent Assistant Leader, Deep from 13<sup>th</sup> Southall. We are awaiting results of the International Service Team (IST) applications.

A further 12 contingent applicants from Greenford & District have been invited to attend the Haarlem Jamborette in the Netherlands, a fantastic opportunity for international Scouting experience taking place at the same time as the World Scout Jamboree. Rik, Thomas O'Leary and I will be joining the team leading this event.

Rik and Ainsley have started preparations to support the team attempting their Explorer Belt this summer. Explorer and Network Scouts from Greenford & District, and Uxbridge will be participating.

A new fund raising team are meeting at DHQ, 8pm-10pm on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February to start planning fund raising events to support these adventures- everyone is welcome to join and share ideas.

### Volunteers Wanted!

- 1<sup>st</sup> Greenford are looking for a **Group Scout Leader** to support and inspire the leaders and new committee team. They have some very exciting plans and bags of enthusiasm. Please speak to Cathy or Rik to find out more.
- **The District Shop** would like some help in the shop one Monday evening a month. Full training and hot drinks provided! Please contact Paul or Marian, or pop down and have a chat.
- For number crunchers – 3<sup>rd</sup> Wembley are currently looking for a **Treasurer**, a vital role supporting this growing Group. Contact Cathy or Jay to find out more.

*My thanks to all of you across Greenford & District for all your contributions, and helping to make the District such a successful place for Scouting.*

*Cathy and the District Commissioner Team*

Dates for your Diary:

**Presentation Evening** March 10<sup>th</sup> at 1st Greenford, Peter Chennels Hall

**Greenford & District AGM** June 18<sup>th</sup> at DHQ

**Greenford & District Camp** 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> October at Paccar

Fund Raising Team Meeting Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> Feb 8pm at DHQ

Climbing Course ~~24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> February~~ Sorry course now full!

Safety & Safeguarding 24<sup>th</sup> Feb in Harrow

3<sup>rd</sup> March in City of Westminster

17<sup>th</sup> March in REN

18<sup>th</sup> March in Willesden

24<sup>th</sup> March at 5<sup>th</sup> Hayes

25<sup>th</sup> March in Stanmore and

7<sup>th</sup> April in Uxbridge

Module 1 22<sup>nd</sup> March at DHQ

First Aid Dates to be confirmed.

Please see emails from Tracey (Local Training Manager)