



Greenford Times



Newsletter of the Greenford & District Scout District ~ Registered Charity No 1046044 ~ January 2009

GREENFORD & DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL PROUDLY PRESENTS
Young people from Greenford Northolt Perivale Southall Sudbury and Wembley

GANG SHOW

MUSIC DANCE SONG AND COMEDY FOR ALL THE FAMILY
Thursday 19th and Friday 20th February at 7.30
Saturday 21st February at 2.15 and 7.30

DC's Chat

A happy 2009 to one and all! I do hope that Santa brought you everything that you asked him for. I hope that you and your family had a peaceful and restful holiday.

With the credit crunch setting in both the leaders in our Groups and Units and the families of the young people may be finding it harder to make ends meet and therefore we should be wary when planning our programmes that we do not keep including events that cost a lot of money.

Of course things still need to be paid for and the bills keep going up. Subs and membership fees still need to be paid but please do bear in mind that some people may genuinely not be able to meet your financial demands straight away so do give them plenty of notice.

Group Executive Committees should be looking to offer individual help if exceptional circumstances prevail. This may be in the form of having second hand uniforms available or paying for someone's subs or camp fees.

Don't forget that leaders are not immune. I have heard of several leaders who have recently been given notice of redundancy by their employers.

Please remember that Scouting is for all and not just for those that can afford it.

I do hope that everyone gets through the sticky times ahead and I know that we in Scouting will support and help those who need it.

Skills weekend

Once again a Leaders' Fun Skills Weekend was organised and run on your behalf back in September to pass on new skills to adults in

the district who may have little or no Scouting background or to those who wanted to learn new skills or brush up on rusty ones.

About a dozen leaders from within the District attended to run bases and share their knowledge with others for the good of the young people in our charge.

My hearty thanks go to these people for giving up their free time to help and assist you.

Unfortunately, only a very few people bothered to attend. Those that did come along gained some very useful knowledge and learnt some new skills and as an added bonus the time they spent counts towards their ongoing development of which all leaders need to achieve five hour a year.

The District Team will review the weekend and it has been suggested that this event should be run again in 2010.

ADC (Scouts)

Jay Solanki has been an Assistant District Commissioner (Scouts) since the merging of Wembley & Sudbury Scout District with our own. Unfortunately, due to personal reasons, Jay is having to step down from the role.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Jay for all of his efforts on behalf of the Scout section through some very enjoyable and some tough times.

Jay of course is not leaving us as he will be able to concentrate his efforts within his Group, 3rd Wembley.

Until I appoint a successor, Andrew Norman has agreed to act as ADC (Scouts).

Presentation Evening

At the request of members of the District, this year's presentation evening has been moved to Saturday 14 March.

This formal event, which is held at the District Headquarters, is to recognise the achievements of the young people in the District who have gained the Queen's Scout Award, one of the Chief Scout's Awards, a

Duke of Edinburgh's Award, the Young Leaders' Award or have completed their expedition.

All young people in the District who have achieved one of these awards in the last year are invited to attend and receive their award or a new certificate. Section leaders are asked to invite the young people and their parents to this event and to advise their sectional ADC of the names of those attending.

Finally

On a personal note, my wife, Sue, and I would like to thank everyone who sent us their messages of support when our seven month old son, Nathan, was in hospital recently having an operation to remove a cyst which was squashing the windpipe into his left lung stopping the lung from working.

Your thoughts and best wishes helped us along and now that Nathan appears to have recovered and is breathing and eating properly we hope that it is all now behind us.

Ian D Chick

District Commissioner

dc@greenfordscouts.org.uk

Out of District Forms

“Out of District” forms are to be completed and given to the District Commissioner (DC) if you are undertaking an activity outside of the District.

If all or part of the activity is taking place overnight then an Out of District form is **not** required as a Nights Away Notification will be needed.

The Out of District form may be given to the Group Scout Leader (GSL) instead of the DC unless the GSL is involved in the activity or if the activity is an adventurous one that requires an Activity Permit (e.g. climbing, hiking, etc.).

Out of District forms may be downloaded from the Members' page of the district website, greenfordSCOUTS.org.uk.

Nights Away Notifications

Just a reminder to all of you out there that if you are planning any activity that involves time spent during the night then there **must** be a person with a Nights Away Permit present*.

This includes staying in your own Scout HQ over night and night hikes as well as camps.

The Nights Away Notification form (NAN) **must** be completed and given to the District Commissioner no later than seven (7) days prior to the event so that he may *approve* the event. If you are not staying on a recognised Scout camp site then you must also send a copy of the NAN to the host DC at least fourteen (14) days prior to the event. This includes if you are staying on Girlguiding UK sites.

Failure to comply with this could mean that your Nights Away Permit is suspended or not renewed when it expires.

Also, please check if your Nights Away Permit is still valid as they have expiry dates. Some people's permits are now out of date.

If you are in doubt, please speak with Ian Chick, who, as well as being the District Commissioner, is also the District's Nights Away Advisor.

Please ensure that you use the latest NAN. A link may be found on the Members' page of the district website or the NAN may be downloaded at <http://www.scoutbase.org.uk/ps/nightsaway/naps.htm>.

* Nights Away permit holders may delegate authority for Patrol or Explorer Scout camps held without leaders using the Event Passport. Please see The Scout Association fact sheet fs120431.

Vacancies

There are several roles in the District that are currently vacant or filled by someone in an acting capacity. We would like to fill these roles permanently. If anyone is interested in any of these roles or would like to know more, please have a friendly, non-committal chat with the District Commissioner.

Assistant District Commissioner (Scouts)

The role of ADC(Scouts) is to lead and guide the Scout section at District level and support the leaders in the section.

District Explorer Scout Commissioner

The DESC is responsible for the Explorer Scout provision in the District. The DESC leads and guides the Explorer Scout section engaging with the young people so that the Explorer Scouts themselves have a say in how their section is organised.

Warden / Assistant Warden

Southall Activity Centre

The current team of Min and Ted are looking for someone fitter and more able to either assist them or take over from them in the running of SAC. Any assistance or offers of help would be gratefully received but someone to take on a main role at SAC is desperately needed.

BRAMBLES OUTDOOR CENTRE Greenford

The past year has been particularly successful for The Brambles and several events have taken place to benefit both the Centre and the groups that came along to our 'little bit of the countryside' in Greenford!

We held a 'Trail Blazing' event in March to cut new trails through the undergrowth with ten numbered bases around the grounds to help with event planning. 100 new saplings were planted to replace the dead elm trees.

In June we held our second, very successful, 'Mid-Summer Gala' in the Rectory Garden of Holy Cross Church, Greenford for local Scouts & Guide groups plus local charities to fund raise as an alternative to Greenford Carnival. We will be holding our third event on 13th June should groups wish to fundraise please contact Bryan on 020 8575 3423 to book a place (only £10 a pitch).

In September the second Brambles Golf Classic (with lunch!) was held to fundraise for The Brambles. The weather was excellent and a great day was had by all. Our next Classic will be on 5th September with a Brambles v District day on the 19th

September 2009 (contact Jim Hunter to take part).

Our final event was a Bonfire and Firework party on 7th November and 100 people of all ages came for the evening. Excellent hotdogs and soup were on offer organised by the friends/parents of Holy Cross Guides and Scouts.

Approximately 450 people came to Brambles during the year from various groups and we hope to exceed this number in 2009. Please call Bryan (020 8575 3423) to book. Finally, this year we have managed to raise sufficient money, with the help of our excellent committee, to replace our aging grass cutting equipment and so the Outdoor Centre will be even better this year!!

Bryan Payne
Brambles Secretary

The Brambles is a small campsite managed by volunteers on behalf of the Scouts and Guides at Holy Cross Church, Greenford.

Cubs Corner



The Cub section has had a good year with a full programme as usual. At the last quarterly census we had about 225 cubs in the district.

Since the summer we have had the activity day at SAC which was a good day enjoyed by all that attended. The question for next time is how do we get more cubs to come along?

We had the annual cross country competition in October won by 3rd Perivale and the fun contest of Grass sledging in November won by 4th Northolt.

Also at the grass sledging I presented our end of year awards.

The Albert Thom trophy for most points gained over the year at our competitions this year won by 1st Northolt.

The Mavis Vincent trophy for endeavour - always trying hard and supporting cub scouting in the district - this year won by Pat Green and 4th Perivale.

Looking forward to 2009 we have another full year planned with competitions and activities. All the confirmed dates will be out with cub leaders soon.

As well as our normal annual events this year we are trying, from watching the Olympics last year, a hand ball competition.

There will be a district cub camp at SAC over the end of May bank holiday weekend during which we will tackle some badges and activities so I will be looking for some help with the activities from other leaders.

Also this year there are two planned county cub events.

In May there is a county activity day and due to the small numbers they had last time at Chalfont it has been agreed this year to hold this at SAC.

On the 4th July there is a county outing to London Zoo. This will be called Zoo Quest as not only will it be a trip to look around the zoo but there will also be a questionnaire competition.

My thanks to those who help with the planning and organising of events and all the leaders and cubs that attend district events. Let's see if we can get more cubs out and about in 2009.

Don't forget cub leaders meeting first Wednesday each month starting February.

Graham Holt
Assistant District Commissioner (Cub Scouts)

Greenford Gang Show 2009



525,600 – to some it's just a number, to others involved in Gang Show it means a whole lot more! Join as we move the fun and celebrations of Gang Show 2009 back to Greenford Hall – and find out what 525,600 means to us!

Planning for the Gang Show started as far back as April 2008 with the chaos of rehearsals underway since September. We have made some exciting changes to the production team which now include Maxcine Hill as Chair, Stanley Miller as Producer, Tracey Miller as Senior Gang Director and Lara Johnson as Junior Gang Director with Tracy Minson doing behind the scenes administration, tickets and publicity, plus Marian Wilson busy making costumes assisted by Gordon designing the stage and sets!

The fantastic news is that we have a cast made up of over 70 members of the district, many of who have never been involved in Gang Show before and are more than stepping up to the challenge!

We request your support for the 56th Greenford Gang Show as it makes its way back to the stage at Greenford Hall. The show dates are Thursday 19th, Friday 20th and Saturday 21st February 2009 with shows starting at 7.30pm and a matinee show on Saturday at 2.15pm.

Don't think that because you have never assisted before you will not be needed or made welcome. Gang Show 2009 is a district event and support is welcomed however big or small, from all Sections.

Please contact either Stanley Miller direct on 020 8578 1483 or Tracy Minson on 07899 896 252 to book tickets or offer your help and support in other ways.

Stanley Miller, Producer

Gang Show – Moving On...

Earlier last year a meeting was held to discuss the future of the *Greenford Gang Show*.

A lot of people with an interest in the Gang Show came along and expressed their views and I thank every one of them for their time and comments.

What really came through was that those who are involved in the Gang Show are committed to it and give up their free time to do the show along side their family, work and main Scouting life.

Everyone agreed that the show should go on but there was mixed feelings whether it should continue on an annual basis. Some felt it was too much and should be every other year and others felt it was OK as it was.

My view, as the District Commissioner, is that whilst there are young people in the District that wish to participate in Gang Show and whilst there are enough suitable adults to put on the show to a high standard then I am happy for it to continue on an annual basis.

The latter part of the last paragraph is very important. Without the adults to support and run it, the Gang Show will not happen. To this end I am looking for future Producers to enable this to happen.

These people may not be ready to produce the show next year or the year after but there is a limited time that one person or a team of people are able, or should be allowed, to run the show. This is by no way a criticism of the current incumbent but just a fact of life.

We have had several people produce the Gang Show over the last decade or so and I am sure that if you want to know what is involved – and don't think it is a walk in the park because it ain't – then I am sure that they would be more than willing to give you their thoughts.

If anyone is interested in taking on this challenge then please have a chat with Louise or myself sometime.

Ian D Chick
District Commissioner

Southall Activity Centre

SAC has had a lot of work carried out recently. As most of you will know by now, we had a new kitchen fitted in 2007, which is a huge improvement on the old one.

During 2008 we removed all the faces of the climbing wall and replaced them with new, stronger, panels. There is still some minor work to be done but the wall is useable as it is.

Also in 2008, the electric shower units were replaced by new ones which are connected to the boiler giving a much more efficient showering experience! Hopefully, at some time in the future the showers will be made independent of the gent's toilets, but this will be a major - and costly - undertaking so is not likely to happen soon.

We are looking to buy new pioneering poles this year. Some of the old ones have had to be discarded and some of the remainder are looking jaded as well.

It would be very nice to see more Groups making use of SAC, for both section evening activities and short camps, this year. While I realise that "It's only Southall!" is a frequent cry it's also not spending hours on the M25 on a Friday evening getting to a more distant campsite!

Hoping to hear from you soon.

Min Brandon

Warden

sac@greenfordscouts.org.uk

Dates for 2009

Here are some dates for your diary for 2009.

Greenford Gang Show	19 – 22 Feb
Group Swimming Gala	Sat 28 Feb
Presentation Evening	Sat 14 Mar
St. George's Day	Sun 26 Apr
Remembrance Day	Sun 8 Nov

Dates are available on the District Website, greenfordSCOUTS.org.uk.

Jack Petchey Adult Award

The Jack Petchey Foundation sponsors youth achievement awards for Scouting in GLMW. This means that those young people in the Scout and Explorer Scout sections can benefit from winning an award.

As well as awards for the young people, the JPF also sponsor an annual award for adults involved with supporting the youth movement.

The adult award consists of a certificate, a medallion and a cheque for £1,000 to be used for their youth section. Nominations are made by members of the District.

The first winner in our District, who received their award at the presentation evening in 2008, was Explorer Scout Leader and District Scout Leader Maxcine Hill.

This year's nomination, who will receive their award at the County presentation event in March, is Beaver Scout Leader and Gang Show Director Tracey Miller.

Congratulations to both Maxcine and Tracey for being nominated for these once in a lifetime awards and for showing that dedication and hard work does have its rewards.

Social Event

In recent times the District has held several social events for adults. These have included dinner – dances, discos and dog-nights.

The District Team are interested to know if you would like to have a social event open to all adults in the District?

The event could be anything from going to the dogs, a river boat trip, dinner dance, weekend in Paris, trip to the moon (well maybe not this one – yet!) or anything else.

If you have an idea, please discuss it at your sectional leaders' meetings so that it can be raised at a future team meeting.

JACK PETCHEY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

WINNERS

2008

JANUARY	ASHKAN AKZAD 1ST NORTHOLT
FEBRUARY	AKSHA DANGARA 4TH GREENFORD
MARCH	THOMAS ADJETY 9TH GREENFORD
APRIL	RAJESH SIVADE 3RD WEMBLEY
MAY	JASKAMAL SINGH SAGOO 13TH SOUTHALL
JUNE	IDAHANNA JULIN (EVEY) 12TH NORTHOLT
JULY	IONA BARRINGTON-COOK PEGASUS EXPLORER SCOUT UNIT
AUGUST	KEMLYN MCCULLAGH YOUNG LEADERS ESU
SEPTEMBER	FAYE WESTON 2ND NORTHOLT
OCTOBER	JOSEPH STEWART-PAUL 3RD PERIVALE
NOVEMBER	TAYA REEVE 4TH NORTHOLT
DECEMBER	RYAN LENNON 1ST NORTHOLT

Pauline E May
Jack Petchey Co-ordinator

**Greenford & District Scout Council
The '252 Club' 2008
List of Winners**

MONTH	1st - £30	2nd - £20	3rd - £10
JANUARY	No. 46 Mrs Diana Amos	No. 102 Mr Andrew Chennells	No. 153 Mrs Pauline Avery
FEBRUARY	No. 46 Mrs Diana Amos	No. 126 Mr Jay Solanki	No. 196 Alex Taylor-Brown
MARCH	No. 166 Mr Jim Hunter	No. 75 Mr Peter Smith	No. 114 Mr Frank Smart
APRIL	No. 49 9 th Greenford Scout Group	No. 184 Mr Graham Holt	No. 142 Mr Stan Miller
MAY	No. 81 Mr Ian Chick	No. 35 Mr James Black	No. 32 Mr Martin Vowles
JUNE	No. 207 Mr Martin Sherry	No. 70 Mrs Susan Chick	No. 136 4 th Perivale Scout Group
JULY	No. 24 Mr Justin Bamford	No. 257 2 nd Northolt Scout Group	No. 160 Mrs Penny Black
AUGUST	No. 150 Mr David Drayson	No. 28 Mr Dick Veal	No. 126 Mr Jay Solanki
SEPTEMBER	No. 65 Mrs Dorothy Platt	No. 32 Mr Martin Vowles	No. 158 Mr Jerry Lacey
OCTOBER	No. 196 Alex Taylor-Brown	No. 139 Mr Nicholas Chennells	No. 263 Mr Alfred Collins
NOVEMBER	No. 33 Mr Arthur Johnson	No. 105 Mrs Judith Lacey	No. 60 Mr Alan Macdonald-Brown

MAIN DRAW 2008

1st - £650	2nd - £100	3rd - £50	4th - £25
No. 181 Sarrah Taylor-Brown	No. 133 Satyadeep Singh Gujral	No. 2 Ms Emma Green	No. 10 Mr Malcolm Woolsey

The '252 Club' is run by Roy Chick on behalf of the District.

New members are always welcome. Shares in the '252 Club' are £15 each per annum and are available from Roy at DHQ on Monday evenings. Roy may also be contacted on 020 8578 4220 or via email roy.chick@greenfordscouts.org.uk.

Why not visit our website

greenfordscouts.org.uk