

# EPSOM & EWELL DISTRICT

## Scouting News and Views



**Welcome to Your District Newsletter.**

A publication, for Scouting by Scouting, raising the image of Scouting in our District.

### 3rd Stoneleigh (Methodist) Scout Group Review

**At 3rd Stoneleigh (Methodist) Scouts** we have had the usual busy year with very full programmes but it is perhaps worth plucking out a couple of highlights for this newsletter.

Firstly our Open Evening, which was held this year in February. We changed the format a little this year as we felt that it was in danger of becoming a bit repetitive year on year.

Being keen to involve the parents we started the evening with a quiz which worked well in getting people warmed up for what was to come but more importantly gave the Beavers an extra practice slot to 'perfect' their ambitious presentation. The hall was full with parents, who entered into the spirit of the quiz both enthusiastically and most competitively. Whilst all this was happening there was frantic activity in other rooms where Cubs and Scouts were also busy making sure their presentations were up to scratch. The Beavers started the presentations off with two songs, the first one: 'Lean on Me' with a theme of being a good friend was brilliantly sung (especially compared to the dress rehearsal!), their second, 'Bumble Bee', a fun song they always enjoy singing in particular the "sicking up the bee" part. (No surprise there!). Each Beaver sang a section and managed really well. Our Beavers had taken part in the District Beaver Ten-pin Bowling Competition, and one of our Beavers had won the Girl's Individual Trophy from that evening. They were both surprised and pleased when the District Cub Scout Leader appeared (there being no District Beaver Leader) to award the trophy to **Grace Richards**.

Next up were the Cubs who took the stage to take turns telling the parents about all the activities they had taken part in and enjoyed over the year. This led on to a practical demonstration of the Grand Howl which we understand brought back all sorts of



Continuing with the participation theme, we ran a typical cub game in a parent verses child format. This was remarkably seriously fought out and whilst the parents were marginally the winners, by little more than a whisker, I still remain to be convinced they were not cheating (even more than the cubs that is!) The Scouts sought to win favour with the audience prior to their presentation by plying them with refreshments but it wasn't necessary as their contribution was well received by all.



We had a slide show with the Scouts narrating the activities being shown on the screen, which embraced regular weekday night activities, weekend expeditions and camps. The Scouts covered our Mayday Camp and our Summer Camp giving some detail on all the activities including rafting, quad biking, water walking, BMX racing etc etc.

The opportunity was taken to celebrate 2 scouts who had just achieved the Chief Scouts Gold Award and encourage others who were still working towards completion, 7 of whom have now, or are just about to, gain the award.

The Explorer Scouts were represented at the Open Evening, helping with the other sections as part of our desire to bond across the age ranges.

We closed the evening as ever with a plea from the Chairman of our Executive Committee for parental support on the Executive, something which has become a critical issue recently. However this year, we were delighted that we were able to end on a big high. with the presentation to the Group of a donation from the Stoneleigh Residents' Association, to enable the Group to buy a replacement tent.

All in all the Open Evening was a great success and we received very favourable feedback from parents.

The other event worthy of mention, which occurred at the end of September, was our Group Camp. This has become an annual event which now incorporates the AGM and attracts numbers around the 100 mark. It is very much a 'game' based camp with mixed age teams competing for a prize that never materialises. All Scouts who are old enough sleep under canvass and other people are accommodated in huts. A major benefit of this event is of course the bonding of the group, although some of the photographs taken of the adults games and dressing up after the children have gone to bed do take some living down !



Next year is our Group's 75 anniversary and we are planning several events during the year which will centre around a mid-summer Group Camp involving Members, past and present.

In conclusion a plea!. We desperately need another Assistant Scout Leader and two Explorer Scout Leaders if the Explorers are to continue, so if anyone knows anyone who might be approachable,

**please do let us know**

## A WEEK IN SCOUTING

A few pictures to show the variety of life in a week of Scouting, from freezing mountain tops to a Sunny day out with Royalty:-



The St George's day parade at Windsor is the highlight of the scouting year. Our patron, the Queen, gives us the castle for the day for a parade for every scout who gained the Queen's Scout Award that year.

Leaders, who have recently gained the silver acorn, (five of us from Epsom and Ewell District) along with mums and dads of the Queen Scouts can come and watch the parade.

There is a service in St George's Chapel in the castle and a Guards band leads the march through the town and in the

Duchess of Cornwall to take the salute on the march past and she inspected the entire parade speaking to most of the Scouts while the Irish Guards played.



We were also entertained in the castle before the parade by the Kingston and Morden Scout Band.

Queen's Scouts are exceptional people who work hard to gain their award. It is not for the scout leaders to provide a programme to ensure you reach the level; that would be too easy and just a test of the leader, it is for you to make it happen. You can start now by reading, "Reach the Top" on the scout web site. It may look daunting to start with but just draw up a plan and start motivating yourself and others to make it happen. The weekend before the parade, I went on an expedition that would have qualified. I did this to give other leaders the ability to help you if you ask. **If I can do it at my great age, surely you can!**

## County remote camping weekend in the Moelwyns



**Howard Park**, AGSL, Epsom Air Scouts and County Hill Walking Assessor (Age 67).



**St. Gorge's Day Service photo's,**  
(clockwise from top left).

1. Arrival lead by 1st Cuddington colour party.
2. Music provided by the Emmaus Music Group
3. Guests of Honour & district Scouters.
4. Flag bearers line up outside church after service
5. More flag bearers awaiting the District colours
6. 1st Cuddington players acting out the story of St George & the Dragon during the service.



## CORRECTION

In our April issue we reported that Phil & Chris Had been awarded the Silver Wolf, this should have read Bar to Silver Acorn.

## DCs Notes:-

The St George's Day Church Parade on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April at St Joseph's Church was very well attended by most of the Groups in the District. The theme of the service composed by our District Chaplain, Lynn Hellmuth, was St George the Patron Saint of Scouting. Included was a short play about the story of St George saving the maiden from the dragon. The play was composed and performed, really professionally, by Cubs from the 1<sup>st</sup> Cuddington (Warspite) - well done, and thanks to the Leaders for the time in preparing the costumes, particularly the dragons head. This, together with music from the group Emmaus made for a really good service. Hopefully, next year we will see more Groups attending. The District football competitions take place on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May at the NESCOL sports grounds, I look forward to seeing you there. As always, it's a pleasure to list below Awards notified, by Headquarters, in the last month. Congratulations to all concerned.

*John*

District Commissioner

## Congratulations to:-

### Service Awards

#### 20 Years

Richard Cooper - District Service Team

#### 40 Years

Robert Clarke - 8/14<sup>th</sup> Epsom

## MAY DIARY DATES:-

6th	Early May Bank holiday
11/12th	Leader selection—Japan jamboree
18th	5-A-Side Football - NESCOL

### Copy date Next Issue: 20th May 2013

Articles for publication should be sent to:- [ianmelhuish@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ianmelhuish@hotmail.co.uk)

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Charity No:-1031708 [Epsom & Ewell District Scout Council](http://www.epsomandewellscouts.org.uk)

## Service Team past & future events

We have obtained Planning Permission and the Planning Conditions have been approved, we are awaiting Building Reg's which we should have very soon for the new District Store to be built at 2<sup>nd</sup> Cuddington Scout Group.

We aim to have the Containers on site by the beginning of the month so we can start decanting the equipment into the temporary storage. If you would like to lend a hand or need more details contact :-

[vicechairman@theserviceteam.org.uk](mailto:vicechairman@theserviceteam.org.uk)

23<sup>rd</sup> March - Tillingbourne Brewery Trip was a great success with 10 of us venturing into the snowy blizzard to walk the two miles from Clandon to the brewery for the tour. Then the walk back to Clandon for lunch. Although apprehensive about the weather to start with we all enjoyed the walk even if it was a bit muddy underfoot.

21<sup>st</sup> April - St Georges Day Parade we were helping at the St Joseph's with directions and handing out the Orders of Service.

**8<sup>th</sup> May** - Our monthly meeting which are held on the second Wednesday of every month. They are held at The Forge, behind the 3<sup>rd</sup> Epsom (St Martins) Scout Group in Church Road. Meeting start at 8.30 and last approximately from 30mins to 1 hour. During the meeting we will have feedback from the previous month's activities & discuss future events.

**18<sup>th</sup> May** - Scout 5 aside Football Competition, we will be erecting the goals a Mess tent & the PA we are meeting on site at NESCOL at 8am to have it all ready for the start. Anyone who would like to help contact :- [vicechairman@theserviceteam.org.uk](mailto:vicechairman@theserviceteam.org.uk) for more details.

**26<sup>th</sup> May** - We are running the Ariel Runway at Boidier for more details contact :- [bookings@theserviceteam.org.uk](mailto:bookings@theserviceteam.org.uk)

**12<sup>th</sup> June** - Our next meeting, all welcome. For more details regarding the Service Team have a look at our website :- [www.theserviceteam.org.uk](http://www.theserviceteam.org.uk)

Surrey Scout web site address :-

<http://www.surrey-scouts.org.uk/SurreyScout/>