

INSIGHT

February 2007

Editor: Dave Paddon 17 Moorlands Road, Camberley, Surrey GU15 3AF 01276 514357 d.paddon@ntlworld.com

District Commissioner's Report

On the 1st January, people were saying 'It's Here!', the National Media were mentioning it and, more recently, BBC2 broadcast a programme on it twice. Radio 4 did a series on it and the local press printed articles on it. Hopefully none of our readers are asking 'What's Here?'

Yes, the Centenary Year has arrived. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity; one we must grab with both hands and make the most of everything that comes our way during 2007.

You would have read in the December edition of Insight about the events and activities planned throughout the year. There really is something for everyone.

All former and current Scouts are being encouraged to renew their Promises at 8.00am local time on the 1st August wherever they are in the world. This is exactly 100 years after Scouting started.

The District's Sunrise Ceremony will be held in the forecourt of Kingston University, Penrhyn Road from 7.45am until 8.15am and everyone is invited to attend. Afterwards, there will be the facility to enjoy some refreshments and to socialise.

Since the last edition of Insight, members of the District have had the opportunity to participate in a variety of activities. These included Beaver Scouts skating, Cub Scouts enjoying a circus party and Scouts and Explorer Scouts competing in a night hike and a swimming gala. The outing to see Peter Pan was also successful.

Scoutlink held their annual party, two band inspections and a concert took place and I was also able to attend several Christmas events, one of which was joining a Cub Pack singing carols to residents living in wardened accommodation.

Unfortunately, just before Christmas, we lost Ray Andrews, Ken Hawkins and Tim Noakes and, more recently, Brent Leppard, four people who have been Scouting for many years. Our thoughts are with their families during this time.

Coming up soon is the District Gang Show and, of course, our Centenary Year St. George's Day Parade and Services. Do come and watch the whole District on parade because, as usual, it should be an impressive sight.

In the meantime, all of our Sections are being encouraged to contribute towards 200 gift boxes to go to young people who are less fortunate than ourselves. The boxes will be gathered together during our St. George's Day Services replacing the traditional charity collection.

Bob.

Recruitment

Do you know anyone who would like to join in the fun of Scouting?

Everybody from the age of 5 ¾ is welcome so just telephone 020 8287 2743 and you will be advised of the nearest Scout Group in the Royal Borough, with meeting times and the activities it has to offer.

District Chairman's Report

I'd like to wish each and every one of you a Happy New Year! This year, being the centenary year, the District has planned all sorts of events; keep checking the diary dates section at the back of Insight so you don't miss any.

We also hope to have a series of newspaper articles appearing in the local press (Surrey Comet and Guardian). The first article was published in mid January and asked the readership to send in their Scouting stories, anecdotes and pictures. The Surrey Comet reporter is already receiving some but would, of course, still like more. So if you have things to share, contact Hollye Blades at the Surrey Comet office or email her at: hblades@london.newsquest.co.uk.

We intend a succession of future articles to cover the history of Scouting in each Group, one article per Group, so keep a look out in these papers for the history of your Group over the following weeks.

We are still in negotiation with Kingston Council over the renewal of the lease for Southwood Activity Centre but, by the time the next issue of Insight appears, the lease, for the next 7 year period, will have been signed. Those of you who have visited Southwood recently will, I'm sure, have noticed the big improvements that the scrub clearance has made. Our thanks go to members of the Probation Service, who have worked very hard on this project. We intend putting in place a land management plan, agreed with Kingston Council, to ensure that the site is continuously maintained and improved.

Trevor



Published by the Royal Kingston
District Scout Council

<http://www.royalkingstonscouts.org.uk/>



Beaver Scouts 5 ¼ to 8

About one hundred Beavers from ten different Colonies had a wonderful time recently roller skating at Tolworth Recreation Centre. The afternoon was organised by 1st Hook Cheyenne Colony Leaders.



Some Beavers arrived steadily on their own skates or "Heelys" while others were certainly more wobbly on hired skates. But everyone seemed to enjoy themselves despite a lot of falling over.

Well done to those who had to wait patiently for their skates and also to those who generously gave up theirs so all could have a go. The true Scouting spirit was certainly in evidence.

Colonies are obviously

getting into all the Join-In-Centenary activities and hopefully learning a bit of Scouting history on the way.

The older Beavers are going exploring on March 11th (over 7 ½ years only) so ask your Leader for details. It will be interesting to see what their shelter-building skills are like this time. That's always the most popular aspect of an afternoon which leads to the award of the Explore Activity Badge.

Heather Mason
Assistant District Commissioner Beaver Scouts



Cub Scouts 8 to 10 ½



Before we look forward to everything our Centenary year has to offer our Cubs, I'd like to look back at some of last years events. District sporting events for Cubs are always well-supported and great fun for everyone involved. Way back last July, on a sunny Saturday, 1st Surbiton 'Dolphin' pack won the District Cub Sports Day. In October, Cubs met at Cheam Baths for the annual District Cub Swimming Gala. We ran separate heats and finals in two age categories for breast stroke, front crawl, back crawl and two relay events. All the Cubs who took part did really well. It was an enjoyable evening with lots of support from the gallery. Congratulations to 2nd Tolworth who won the gala (again).

We ended 2007 with a Christmas Party for more than 200 Cubs. The Cubs played traditional party games as well as having fun with circus skills, balloon modelling and giant football games with an entertainer called Steve Price from Pizzazz.

Our first event for 2007 is the Raksha Trophy competition on 3rd February. Packs will enter teams of Cubs to compete in various challenges. The questions and tasks can be based on anything from physical and practical challenges to quizzes on 'traditional' Cub Scout skills. The whole point of the event is that the exact content of the challenges is known only to a small organizing team and the Cubs take pot-luck when they enter. We're lucky to have the help of some members of the Jamboree contingents in running this event. We're hoping the Cubs rise to the challenge!

Jane Pringle
Assistant District Commissioner Cub Scouts



Scouts 10 ½ to 14

Sometimes the best laid plans don't always work out, as has happened recently with some of our regular activities. Those intrepid teams who survived a night of high winds and a full on storm for the District Night Hike in December were lucky, as the weather struck again very recently - another storm brought down a number of large trees at Polyapes, necessitating the postponement of the District Cyclo Cross.



Unfortunately, the County Cooking Competition has also had to be postponed, that means that the District Swimming Gala has been our main event after Xmas.



Once again, a lively occasion, with 1st place shared between Berrylands and 1st Hook troops.

The District Activity Day at Polyapes at the end of February should provide plenty of work and that is followed by the rescheduled District Cyclo Cross in early March.

This time of the year though does enable troops to work indoors on proficiency badges and many of the challenges, although it's nice to get outside when the weather improves.

I am sure parents appreciate what Leaders put on for their Scouts. Sometimes, though, the amount of time spent in preparation gets somewhat overlooked - without exception Leaders want their young people to enjoy well thought out and satisfying activities.

This Centenary Year is full of such activities, in particular, the District Centenary Camp is going to be very special - see you there.

Robin Burr
Assistant District Commissioner Scouts

Ten Scouts-a-Scouting.....

It was a special occasion one evening in December for the 1st Old Malden (St John the Baptist) Scout Troop, when Group Scout Leader Tim Eggitt invested no fewer than ten new members into the Troop! The Troop having been treated to a special Christmas outing to the David Lloyd Centre decided that it was a great way to finish the evening off with a special investiture of the ten new members. Among the group to make the 'Scout Promise' was a first for the Scout Group, the Troop's first girl member, 10yr old Katie Langford, already a session hand at Scouting, having been a Beaver Scout and Cub Scout, has now progressed into the Troop.



All the members are looking forward to 2007, the centenary of the world wide Scouting Movement.

Explorer Scouts 14 to 18

January is the time of year when the Scout Association takes stock, with the annual census. I am very happy to report that, in Royal Kingston District, Explorer Scouting is very much on the increase. During the past year, we have opened another Unit, Discovery ESU, based at 2nd Malden, but the big message is that numbers are on the increase generally. This time last year we had 97 Explorer Scouts in the District but today that number has risen to 120, an increase of over 23%. What is also particularly interesting and very encouraging in the results of the census, is that 36 of those young people, (30% of the total), are not only enjoying the activities as Explorer Scouts, but also putting skills and knowledge back into the movement by acting as Young Leaders in either the Beaver, Cub or Scout sections. This particular result becomes even more important when we learn that 40% of all new adult leader appointments in the movement are now being made to those who were originally Young Leaders. I do commend the work that Geoff is doing with the Columbus Young Leader Unit, and urge all of those Explorer Scouts with this role to attend when they can.



Two Explorer Scouts, from the District, have recently attended a reception at City Hall given by the London Assembly to celebrate the Centenary of Scouting in



London. The Scout Association President, HRH The Duke of Kent, and the Chief Scout were present. Perhaps the highlight of the evening was the walk down the spiral staircase from the ninth floor, with the night views of London to left and right, and the council chamber below

us. At the bottom of the stairs, the tiled floor depicted an aerial view of the whole of Greater London. It was fascinating to see elderly Scouters and young Explorer Scouts crawling around together on the floor, looking for either their house or Scout HQ.

One of our problems in the section has been establishing links with the Scout Network, the section following Explorer Scouting. I would like to thank the local Network for visiting two of our Units in recent months and providing entertainment and an insight into what the Network is all about. I am sure this form of linking is the best way forward.

Finally, may I remind all of the Units about Leander ESU's offer to provide an Evening on the water., Remember to book it soon if you want one.

Barry Pegram
District Explorer Scout Administrator

National Winter Camp



The first event of the Centenary Scouting Calendar was the National Winter Camp over the first weekend in January, held again at Gilwell Park - the home of Scouting . 2500 young people descended on Chingford in Essex and the 2nd Malden party of Scouts, Explorers and Guides were with them to enjoy a weekend of adventurous activities and challenges

Temperatures were mild but the rain made up for that quickly turning paths into quagmires & allowing reminiscences about 'Great Glastonburys' of years gone by. Over 20 adventurous activities were on offer and in addition to the clay pigeon shooting , climbing & caving, the High Ropes were popular this year as were the quad bikes and craft activities. The evenings saw the young people descending on the disco and film shows while the over-18s managed a creditable 4th in the Leaders' Bar Pub Quiz. This followed our success at the Dodgem Car session although anyone who has seen our GSL on the school run will not have been surprised at this.

Given the significance of the historic setting, we presented a Chief Scouts Silver Award and invested one of our Scouts, three Explorers and one leader on the lawn in front of the White House. We were

subsequently informed that we were the first to do so in Centenary Year, thus creating our own little piece of history.

A number of the Jamboree Units were camping and it was interesting to meet those from Wales & St Ives and to listen to Greater London South's PA System which played continuous dance music, although their reveille to the Chitty Bang Bang theme was a bit lively for sore heads on Sunday morning.

'All in all a really well and enjoyable event offering our young people a 'Mountain Top event' - one where they can say proudly 'I was there'.



Eric G Falconer - A Personal History

I am now in my 89th year. I joined the 3rd Kingston Group in 1926 on my eighth birthday and progressed through the group from Cub, Scout and Rover until 1938 when I joined the R.A.F. In 1936, whilst still a Rover with 3rd Kingston, I became an Assistant Scoutmaster with 1st Kingston Hill under 'Tarzan' Millest. In the meantime, my wife, who came from Holland, became an Assistant Cub Master under Mrs. Myers at Leaner Scout Group. Whilst in the R.A.F., I maintained my association with the Scout movement by becoming an Honorary Rover with 3rd Kin. Whilst serving in Malaya, I became GSM of a combined Ghurkha/European Scout Group and passed Part 2 of the Wood Bridge whilst there. I was the only European in the course; my patrol consisted of a Malay, an Indian and three Chinese Scouts. I was eventually presented, by Sir Gerald Templar the then Chief Scout of Malaya, with my Gilwell scarf and woggle. During this time, my wife continued her service with the Cubs and, later, ran the Cubs in Oslo, Norway where we ran an English Group and had the pleasure of spending an evening with the late Lady Baden-Powell, the Chief Guide whilst she was in Norway. On retiring from the R.A.F after 30 years of service, I became the Secretary and Newsletter Editor of the 3rd Kingston Old Scouts which, unfortunately, had to be disbanded owing to the fact that most of our members have now passed on.

I trust that the above will be of interest to your readers and to let you know that, despite my age, I have fond memories of Kingston District Association which, may I add, then consisted of Kingston, Surbiton, Molesey, Cobham and Tolworth and Oxshott. In fact, the D.C. at the time, was GSM of 1st Oxshott, also the Dittons Group under Rome Atwell and not forgetting Malden were also a part of Kingston District.

With best wishes for the New Year,
Yours,

Eric G. Falconer

Publication Details

Insight is published on the following dates:

April 14th June 14th October 14th
December 1st February 14th

Articles for inclusion in an edition need to be received by the Editor two weeks before the publication date. The deadline for submitting articles for the next edition is 10:00am on 1st April 2007.

Dave Paddon

Memories Needed

Did you set fire to your tent whilst on scout camp in Oxshott woods? Were you horrified when the first girl appeared in your Malden scout group? Have you ever lost your woggle in Surbiton? The Surrey Comet wants your scouting memories.

2007 marks the centenary year for the Scouting movement. In August, over 400,000 Scouts from around the world will come together for the centenary jamboree in Essex, including 29 Scouts from the Royal Kingston District.

Scouting in Kingston has been going strong from the very beginning in 1907, when Robert Baden Powell took 20 boys from London and Bournemouth on the first ever scout camp to Brownsea Island in Dorset. Since then, the movement has boomed to over 28 million members worldwide. In Kingston alone, there are over 1000 scouts, with 17 Scout groups, 7 Explorer Scout groups and numerous beaver colonies and cub packs, not to mention three Scout bands, a Rifle Club and a Canoe Club.

To celebrate 100 years of Scouting in the borough of Kingston, from February the Surrey Comet will be taking an in-depth look every week at each Scout group in turn, and we need your help. Beginning with the oldest brigade, Leander Sea Scouts, we will be dispelling the 'dib dib

dib' myths behind the movement and featuring each Kingston Scout group in turn, including modern-day photos and anecdotes from the 1940s.

There are thousands of former Kingston scouts out there, and we would like your help in bring us your anecdotes, old photos, unusual stories or unusual facts about your time as a scout in Kingston. We would also like to hear from any former Kingston scouts who have shot to fame since their time in shorts, or who are well-known in the community. All the photos and stories we receive will also appear on our special Scouts area of the website surreycomet.co.uk.

District Chairman Trevor Strong said: "It's so important, especially in this centenary year, for the present generation of scouts to understand their scouting heritage and there's no better way than reading first hand accounts and looking at pictures of past scouting. We'd love to hear from anyone in the borough about their days in scouting. We need anecdotes, memories and pictures if possible; in fact anything that you think may be of interest to others and to present day scouts."

Email your photos and stories to hblades@london.newsquest.co.uk, send them to Hollye Blades, Unecol House, 819 London Road, North Cheam, Surrey SM3 9BN or call 020 8330 9553.

Kingston and Malden Scout and Guide Band

The Mayor of the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames, Cllr. Mary Reid, was guest of honour at the Kingston and Malden Scout and Guide Band's annual concert and prizegiving on Saturday, 2 December. The Mayor's Consort, Cllr. Ian Reid, also accompanied her and they were treated to a glittering evening's prizegiving in the form of an Oscar style ceremony.

During the concert, held to a packed house of over 200 parents, friends, supporters, Scouts and Guides at Tolworth Girls School, the Band's annual awards, to recognise the young people's commitment, service and development in the 60 strong band, were announced and presented in the famous Oscars format. The winners and runners up in each individual category were announced by last year's winner - in traditional style, with the golden envelope! The Mayor was herself invited to open the envelopes and announce the winners for the top two awards of the evening



The Mayor commented on how blessed the Royal Borough was to have such a top-class band, not only within Scout and Guide circles, but across the whole of the youth band movement.

Assistant County Commissioner for Scouts in Greater London South West, Robin Corti, again confirmed the Band's top "A" grade as a Scout Band, recognising the Band's invites during 2006 to perform at the National St. George's Day Parade at Windsor Castle and Lord Mayor's Show.

The main award winners were:

Band Member of the Year (Leaders' Choice): Beth Yuill

Band Member of the Year (Band's choice): Claire Hammond

The Geoff Mynott Memorial Award for Endeavour: Aidan O'Neill

The Bandmaster's Award: Jemma Hughes.

Douglas G Reynolds - A Scout

I joined the Cubs in 1st Tolworth when I was eight and went into the Scouts when I was 11. However, I did not approve of the Scout Leader who wanted a Scout Group of about 100 so I left 1st Tolworth and joined 1st Surbiton. When I left school, I became more friendly with the members of 2nd. Tolworth Rover Scouts and so became a member of that Section. I was enrolled on 22nd November, 1939 and still have my certificate which I received when Invested.

Whilst I was serving in the Royal Air Force in Bari, Italy, I was attracted to the notice in one of the services canteens which said that a Rover Crew had been formed for men in the services and so I joined the Group. Our meeting place was a flat do not ask me how we acquired the key!

On leaving Bari, the squadron went to Burma and I formed a Rover Crew and called ourselves the 'Nomads', which only lasted for less than a year as the war was over and members were returning home from Ragoon.

As I said in a book called 'Bamboo Thumbsticks', which had stories of Services Scouting in the Far East during World War II, "We did not do anything outstanding but we kept the Spirit of Scouting alive".

After the war, I was either going to help Scouting or become active politically. I got involved in the latter and served on the Councils from 1950 for Surbiton and then the Royal Borough of Kingston Upon Thames for over 30 years, serving as Mayor during 1974/75.

However, I kept in touch with 2nd. Tolworth and, in 1976, I was invited to become Chairman of the Kingston District, a position I held for 5 years. I was also a magistrate for 30 years.

In 1982, I was appointed a member of the Surbiton District Executive Committee and served as Chairman from 1982 to 2004.

I am, at present, a member of the Executive Committee of 2nd. Tolworth and a Vice President of the new Royal Kingston District.

Why do I still take an interest in Scouting? I learnt a great deal as a youngster, certainly being in Scout Gang Shows, and I like to ensure that my enjoyment of Scouting is passed on to the young people of today.

I received, from the Scout Association, the Medal of Merit on 1st October, 1988 and the Bar to the Long Service Decoration (25 years) on 26th June, 2003.

Diary Dates

Activities: - If you wish to attend these exciting events, please contact your Section Leader.

Feb 23-24	District Gang Show - 2nd Tolworth HQ
Feb 25th	District Scout Activity Day - Polyapes
Mar 10-11	County Scout Night Exercise
Mar 10-24	Centenary Exhibition of Scouting in Miniature
Mar 11th	District Beaver Exploring Afternoon - Southwood
Mar 17th	District Cub Arts & Crafts Competition - 2 nd Tolworth
Apr 19th	St. George's Day Rehearsal
Apr 22nd	St. George's Day Parade
May 12th	District Beaver Scientific Afternoon - 1st Hook HQ
May 13th	District Cub 5-a-Side Football - Kingsmeadow
May 18-20	National Archery Championships - Gilwell
May 25-28	District Centenary Camp - Polyapes
June 23rd	District Beaver Sports Morning
July 7 th	District Cub Sports Day - Ember Court
Aug 1st	District Sunrise Ceremony - Kingston University
Sept 23rd	District Beaver Exploring Afternoon - Southwood
Sept 29th	Surbiton Festival Parade
Oct 6th	District Band Concert - King's Centre
Oct 7th	District Beaver Party - 1st Hook HQ
Oct 13th	District Cub Swimming Gala - Cheam Baths
Oct 19-21	National Scout Air Rifle Championships
Oct 20th	District Anniversary Quiz - 1st Hook HQ
Nov 24th	District Outing (Festival of Scouting)
Dec 9th	Centenary Inter-sectional social - 1st Hook HQ

Meetings:

Feb 21st	District Executive
Mar 6th	District Cub Leaders' Meeting 2 nd Norbiton HQ
Mar 19th	District Beaver Leaders Meeting - 3rd Kingston HQ
Mar 21st	District Executive
Apr 2nd	District Scout Leaders Meeting
Apr 12th	Explorer Scout Executive - Leander HQ
Apr 17th	GSLs
Apr 25th	District Executive
Apr 23rd	District Team
May 14th	District Cub Leaders' Meeting - 7 th Malden HQ
May 16th	District Executive
June 11th	District Team
June 13th	District AGM
June 18th	Explorer Scout Executive
June 20th	District Beaver Leaders Meeting - Chessington HQ
July 2nd	District Scout Leaders Meeting
July 11th	District Cub Leaders' Meeting - 2 nd Hook HQ
July 17th	GSLs
July 18th	District Executive
Sept 10th	Explorer Scout Executive
Oct 1st	District Scout Leaders Meeting
Oct 4th	District Cub Leaders' Meeting - Berrylands HQ
Oct 17th	District Beaver Leaders Meeting - 1st Hook HQ
Nov 13th	District Cub Leaders' Meeting - Chessington HQ

AGMs:

Apr 22nd 16:45	2nd Tolworth - The Den
May 9th	1st Hook
May 23rd 18:30	4th Tolworth - Catholic Church Hall
June 4th	Leander
June 9th 17:30	Chessington - Group HQ
June 12th	1st Tolworth
June 13th	District AGM
June 14th 19:30	2nd Malden - St Joseph's Pastoral Centre
June 23rd 17:00	7th Malden - The Barn, Bentley Copse Campsite
June 27th 19:30	2nd Hook - Group HQ
July 2nd 20:15	1st Old Malden - Old Malden Scout Centre
July 5th	3rd Kingston - Group HQ
Nov 11th 15:00	Polyapes AGM - Polyapes

Adult Awards

GOOD SERVICE AWARDS

CHIEF SCOUT'S COMMENDATION

Helen Jeffrey 7th Malden

CHIEF SCOUT'S LONG SERVICE DECORATION 50 YEARS

David Thomas 1st Tolworth

BAR TO THE LONG SERVICE DECORATION 25 YEARS

Jean Jenkins Rifle Club
Susan Oakes 1st Surbiton

LONG SERVICE DECORATION

15 YEARS

Carl Stacey K&M Band

SERVICE CERTIFICATES

10 YEARS

Karl Bromley 7th Malden/District

5 YEARS

Susan Benham 1st Hook
Christopher Hanson-Kahn Berrylands

WOOD BADGES

SCOUT/COMMISSIONER

Robin Burr Leander/District

EXPLORER SCOUT

Karen Loizou Leander



**Capture any aspect of Scouting during 2007
showing Scouts enjoying the Centenary Year.
This is your chance to feature in the
2008 Royal Kingston Scout District calendar.**

- ☞ Only digital photographs can be entered
- ☞ Ask parental permission for photos featuring children
- ☞ The most suitable photos will feature in the 2008 District calendar
- ☞ Other photos may be used for publicity purposes (including our website)
- ☞ The competition is open to everyone

Join in the Centenary adventure and start capturing the everyday fun of Scouting in 2007

Entries to paddon1@sky.com
with your name, age (if under 18)
address, telephone number
& Scout Group/ Unit.

**Closing Date :
12th October 2007**

