

STOP PRESS

CCI at the Palace

Two Scouts and three Explorers represented CCI district at the launch of the YOU London project at Buckingham Palace this month. Antony, Henrietta, Jamie, Lucy and Phoebe were invited to a garden party hosted by the Prince of Wales and Duchess of Cornwall for members of all London's uniformed youth organisations. They took part in the Scouting showcase on the lawn of Buckingham Palace which included parachute games and mini pioneering. Mayor of London Boris Johnson (a CCI resident) doing the hokey cokey with a group of Scouts was certainly a memorable moment – sadly no cameras were allowed to capture the occasion.



FROM THE DISTRICT COMMISSIONER

The best time for Scouting

The summer always seems the best time for Scouting and we have had some lovely weather late May and early June, when I know a lot of groups were away over the half term week. Let's hope it stays fair the whole summer!

I am sorry to have to announce that David Hudson is stepping down as CCI District Training Manager due to work commitments. I am enormously grateful for what he has done for us, especially the leaders' and young leaders' training weekends. That means of course that we are looking for someone – or better a team of say 3 – to run our training. Sam Manners has been handling the administration so far. Training is so important. We would therefore like to hear from people willing to work together as a team, both keeping the administration up to date, planning module training and liaising with the County and District Teams. Support will be provided to you too! Can you let me or any of the District Team know if you would be prepared to be on the Training Team?

I was also sorry to learn of the

sudden death of Roy Baldwin following an accident on Saturday 30 May. Roy had been involved in Hampstead Scouting and was currently on the CCI Appointments Committee. Our condolences go to his family.

You'll be reading about the new appointment approval process in this Newsletter, but I'd just like to highlight that the GSL is responsible for ensuring all new leaders do their 'getting started' module within 5 months of getting the provisional appointment and notifying the Training Manager when this has been done. Until the new Training Manager has been appointed, can you please notify Margaret Rudge, the District Secretary, who can update the database appropriately.

The district will send every new leader their training pack covering all the modules when they've been approved. Can GSLs let Sam Manners or Margaret know if they have a new leader not already wood badge qualified of course, who needs the training pack.

Aileen Barry
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What's on

CCI Leaders' meeting
 Tuesday 8 September
 → 7.30pm at Scout Centre

Beavers Crafts
 Saturday 26 September

Cub Scout Swim Gala
 Friday 16 October

Chiltern 20
 Saturday 17 October
 → County event for Scouts

CCI GSLs' Forum
 Tuesday 20 October
 → Details from John Cronin

Scout Swim Gala
 Friday 23 October
 → Provisional date

CCI District AGM
 Thursday 12 November
 → Details in next newsletter

Cubs 5-a-side football
 Saturday 21 November

FELLOWSHIP

Bletchley Park visit

On Thursday 16 April - a horrible wet day - 11 members of the Fellowship set out for Bletchley Park, home of the Enigma Machine. We were given a very interesting talk by the Guide who was to take us round.

There was a lot of walking round outside from one hut to another seeing various machines that had been used during the war and ending up in the room to see the rebuild of the Colossus Machine (the world's first programmable electronic computer) which was huge - it would fill one wall in an average home sitting room!

It was a shame that the weather wasn't better as there is a lovely lake around which you could sit and have a picnic.

It is well worth a visit if you're into computers.

Well in spite of the weather we all had a lovely day which ended with a very nice meal on the way home at a Harvester.

With thanks to Sally for driving the minibus for us.

Anne Hill

NEWSLETTER

Next edition

Apologies for the late arrival of this newsletter due to pressure of work. I am sending this issue directly from the Lochgoilhead Centre in Scotland where my troop is on summer camp. My thanks to everyone who sent in material for inclusion.

The next edition will cover the months of September and October, so please send lots of words and pictures from your summer camps and activities.

Deadline: Saturday 12 September.

James Hatts

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FROM THE 201st ISLINGTON

201st Cubs visit London Zoo



On Saturday 16 May 12 Cubs from the 201st spent the day at London zoo to complete their animal carers badge.

Starting the day with a visit to gorilla kingdom followed by the reptile house and the aquarium where they particularly liked the piranha fish.

We moved on the zoo world where they had a chance to meet the animals and enter their pens and become a mini zoo keeper and watched a sheep being sheared.

After lunch we moved on to see the lions, tigers, bearded pigs and camels.

Their favourite animal was the komodo dragon.

At 2pm we watched the penguins being fed before going to the amphitheatre to watch a show of parrots, hunting birds and owls, this provided cover from the short shower.

In the late afternoon we went to the spider show which was in the bugs house.

Our day ended seeing the giraffes and zebras.

They all saw how the animals were cared for and what they were fed.

They all arrived home very tired from all the walking but all saying they had a great day.

Martin Manners

GONE HOME

Roy Baldwin

Roy unfortunately met with an accident on Saturday 30 May and later died in hospital.

We only got to know Roy when Islington and Hampstead combined. I was given to understand that like lots of our lay helpers he got involved with the 8th Hampstead as a person on their executive.

Roy was invited to be a member of the appointments committee for CCI which was a role he took quite seriously.

Margaret Rudge

FELLOWSHIP

District Quiz

The District Quiz night was a good evening even though the numbers were down on last year. We had 7 teams in all from 5 Groups.

The chairman's team were the winners and the booby prize was taken by Doreen and Rita. We all enjoyed a fish and chip supper.

Anne Hill

GONE HOME

Cyril Chappell

I am sorry to have to tell you that Cyril Chappell passed away last Tuesday.

He was just a few weeks short of his 98th birthday and I expect most of you know that he had been living in a home for the past few years as he was unable to look after himself. He was a member of the Scout Fellowship and the 33rd Islington Scout Group for many years.

The funeral is Monday 27 July at Emmanuel Church at 12 noon if anyone would like to pay their respects.

Could you please pass this on to anyone else who may have known Cyril.

John Walker

NEWS FROM HQ

Changes to the activity trousers

The Scout Association is carrying out a consultation on possible changes to the design of the Scout uniform activity trousers.

You can take the short survey here: <http://tinyurl.com/activity-trousers>

DISTRICT EVENT

Sports Day

Well done to everyone who took part in this year's Sports Day at Finsbury Park.

The rain held off and allowed a full programme of field and track events to take place.

Thank you to the organisers, judges and everyone else who worked hard to make the event happen.

INTRODUCING CHANGES TO THE APPOINTMENTS PROCESS

Responding to suggestions, The Scout Association have introduced a new streamlined Appointments process, which started on 22 June. Initial training for those involved in the District team and others who are 'line managers', such as Group Scout Leaders, took place on 3 June at the District Centre. Stuart Sinclair, the County Training Manager, took us through the changes, with opportunities for questions and discussion. This all constitutes the training for a new Module 37, which those involved in the 'vetting' need to acquire, and there will be further opportunities for this for anyone needing it.

The key linguistic change is a subtle adaptation to an 'Approval Meeting' for all potential Leaders, in an endeavour to make this a more 'user friendly environment'. There will also need to be three people on the interviewing team. But the forms are perhaps the major change: the Adult Application (AA) form has been changed in several respects, and there is now a new Occasional Helper (OH) form, which gives an opportunity for many others to be involved on a more formal, but still irregular basis. That OH status will hopefully retain many within the Scout Movement when the demands of work, families, further education and other pressing commitments necessitate a temporary diminution in their activities. The language of the forms has been tidied up, and for Leaders there is a requirement that 'at least one of the referees should have known you for at least five years and one of the referees must not be from Scouting'. Unimaginable as it seems, this is a response to the very few cases around the country where the safeguarding protection of the Criminal Records Bureau check has not been sufficient to protect children from nursery workers and others involved in youth organisations.

However, all the key features of the Purpose, Principles and Policies of The Scout Association remain intact, except that the accompanying literature for those involved in the process now makes many of these points more explicit. For example, as well as the Child Protection Policy and the Equal Opportunities Policy,

there is now an appropriate underlining of the Safety Policy and a particular reminder of the Anti-Bullying Policy. Specific reference is made to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, which stipulates that 'Children have the right to protection from all forms of violence (physical or mental). They must be kept safe from harm and they must be given proper care by those looking after them.'

Inevitably perhaps in the sort of District we are, with a multiplicity of faiths, there was an animated discussion on the Religious Policy of the Scout Movement. While the specific AA form question on 'religion or faith' has been dropped from the new form, the position remains that all members of the Movement are 'encouraged to make every effort to progress in the understanding and observance of the promise to do their best to do their duty to God'. This will be part of the discussion both initially at Group level and then at the 'Approval Meeting'. Fortunately, in the new Guide for those involved in the process there are some extremely useful 'sample' questions, including the phrase 'For many people, they may have some kind of belief in a God or higher being, but not link this to a particular organised faith...'. For those of us at the World Jamboree in Thailand, where the vast majority of that nation's Scouts were of the Buddhist faith, and without a belief in God, there are some very interesting points to learn on this subject, which indeed is often a very significant matter for our Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers in the District, let alone potential Leaders. And when we are in a world-wide Movement with a majority of Muslim Scouts over Christian Scouts, it is important to recognise that we are no longer in an organisation where occasional attendance at a Christian Church for 'hatches, matches and dispatches' will suffice. No doubt this very important debate over 'belong to some religious body and carry into daily practice what they profess' will continue around campfires, at Group level and at District HQs for many a year to come.

Julian Fulbrook
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HISTORY

A Century of Islington Scouting

part 2

Albert Pinching continues the story from the end of World War II

Islington Scouting recovered fairly quickly after WW2 despite the younger leaders having to do their 2-year stint of National Service. By 1948 numbers had reached the pre-war levels, but did include the London Diocesan Boy Scouts Association Groups which had been integrated into Islington Boy Scouts Association (IBSA) in 1945. The return of our servicemen after the war led to noticeable increase in Cub numbers by the early 50s.

Several innovations took place in the post-war years. A new section Senior Scouts (with motto "Look Wide") was introduced in 1946 to cater for the 15-18 age group. With Senior Scouting came the first significant change in uniform since the start of the Movement. The beret was introduced for Air Scouts in 1943 replaced the traditional Scout Hat for Senior Scouts.

From its beginnings IBSA had an HQ, initially provided by the 8NL in St James's Lecture Hall in Eden Grove. This was followed by the use of 96 Canonbury Road, this house understood to have been provided by the Marquess of Northampton. But IBSA wanted a place of its own. Attempts to lease the Camden Road Athenaeum were not realised, but in 1952 the former Caledonian Church in Holloway Road was purchased through the efforts of John Ramsay, previously Islington's District Commissioner and also an elder of the Church. "DHQ" as the new base was known became the powerhouse of Islington Scouting for the next two decades.

DHQ was regularly used for the

rehearsals of the Islington Gang Show whose first show took place in 1948. The Gang Show concept was created by Ralph Reader in the 1930s and this form of fund-raising entertainment soon replaced the more traditional concerts, and displays which had been the main source of Scout funds in the pre-war years. Girls joined the Gang Show from the 1970s but with increasing costs the last Islington Gang Show was held in 1988, after a run of forty years of fun and friendships.

1949 also saw the introduction of the B-P Guild of Old Scouts, a fellowship for former members to provide support for Groups. Several branches of the Guild were formed in the stronger Groups, providing practical and financial support to the leaders.

Another source of fund-raising was Bob-a-Job Week introduced in 1949 to raise funds partly for the national HQ and also local Groups. It also provided a field day for cartoonists. Although remaining popular with cartoonists for many years the value of Bob a Job week as a means of fund-raising for Scout HQ declined. As a result HQ introduced in 1964 an annual capitation fee, payable by each Group for its members, initially 5 shillings/head (now £23/head).

By the early 1950s, partly as a consequence of National Service, only the larger Groups could maintain Rover Crews. To compensate for this, the Islington District Rover Crew ("The Ramsay Rovers") was formed in 1955. Initially by Ron Brooker, former ADC (Seniors) and later DC. The Crew had its Den at the old District Headquarters

(DHQ). It numbered 20-30 members at the beginning including many younger Scouters from local Groups without their own Rover Crew. It maintained a vigorous outdoor programme involving supporting many badge courses for Senior Scouts, pioneered mountaineering and caving activities and took part in the famous "Four Inns Challenge Walk" (held in the Peak District) over several years. By way of service, apart from those members actively involved as Scouters in their own Groups, it introduced the Old Folks (later Senior Citizens) Christmas Dinner in 1960 and which ran for 25 years.

Vic Coleman, formerly SL 16th NL, became DRSL after Ron Brooker and had the unfortunate task of introducing the 24 year old upper age limit which was not popular with the older members. He was followed by Don Ridley, once SM 32nd NL, who saw the demise of the Crew and Rover Scouting as a result of the Advance Party report in 1966.

Nevertheless, the spirit of the Crew was maintained by its former members for many years after, and is found in the "Ramsay" Scout Fellowship which was formed in 1977.

The last big north London Rally was held in 1959 at the Harringay Stadium to "Meet The Chief", then Lord Rowallan. Most Islington groups were amongst the 10,000 attendees. The *Evening News* did a special supplement covering this event.

Several Senior Scout Troops flourished during the 1950s but did not redress the decline in numbers in the older age group and leakage

between the Scout and Senior Scout Sections later in the decade This was to result in the early Sixties in a major review of all aspects of Scouting's organisation and methods resulting in the Advance Party Report in 1966. The times were certainly changing, not least for the Scout Movement. The changes involved age ranges with a new section, Venture Scouts for 11-16 year olds, replacing Senior Scouting and the demise of Rover Scouting. A new range of nomenclature, uniforms(with long trousers and berets for the Scout section) was introduced as well as new training programmes and badges for each Section. Even the Scout Laws were reduced from ten to seven.

This reorganisation within Scouting in the mid-Sixties also coincided with the creation of the Greater London boroughs with the result that the Finsbury Scout District was integrated into IBSA in 1968, the former Finsbury Groups being allocated Islington numbers. Islington Scout District had been part of the London Scout County from 1909 which was effectively the LCC area, until 1964 when it became part of a new Greater London Central Scout County

The overall objective of the 1966 Review was to improve the image and quality of Scouting and ensuring minimum standards. To meet these requirements and to overcome the continuing problem of shortage of leaders led in the Seventies to amalgamations and sometimes more painfully the closure of Groups. Some of the older and formerly larger Groups were to close including 4th, 6 13 16 35th, 36 38 NL Groups and some of the former Finsbury Groups. Wherever possible boys were transferred to other surviving Groups. This all coincided with major re-housing programmes in the north of the Borough. The migration of young married couples out of Central London due to house prices also began to have an effect on the leadership problems. In 1969, overall membership had fallen to around 1000 in 33 Groups, but by 1978 there were 20 Groups with an overall membership of around 600 with a almost 50% drop in adult leaders over the decade.

In 1969 a major decision was taken to build a purpose-built Scout Centre to replace the "DHQ" in Holloway Road. The Scout Centre was duly opened

in June 1972 by Lord (Peter) Baden-Powell, grandson of the Founder. In the same year with funding from the Dept of Education & Science and the ILEA a full-time Centre Leader was appointed. A succession of four such leaders was to serve the District well over the next quarter century providing additional support and activities for local Groups. The Scout Centre was extended in 1981 to provide additional meeting rooms and workshops boosting its value as a focal point for Islington Scouting.

1972 also saw the first Islington Scout Fete held at Highbury Fields to raise funds for the Scout Centre and local Groups. The Fete was a popular annual event for 25 years including the Cubs procession along the Holloway Road, its arena displays and variety of side-shows.

In 1977 there was a major restructuring of Adult Support including the creation of the Scout Fellowship, a uniformed support structure (for the 18 -80s) effectively replacing the functions of Rover Crews and the B-P Guild. The Islington ("Ramsay") Scout fellowship was registered in April 1977 and continues to provide valuable support many District activities today.

The 1980s saw further attempts to broaden the membership of the Scout Movement. Firstly, the admission of girls as Venture Scouts which had been optional from 1976. In 1986 the Beaver Scout Section for 6-8 year olds was introduced, based on a scheme pioneered in Canada; four Beaver Colonies were operational in Islington by 1988.

In 1984 four surviving Groups from the former City of London and Holborn Scout Districts became part of the Islington Scout District.

In 1990 membership of all sections of the Scout Movement was extended to girls and within a few years most Groups had mixed membership which slowed down the falling numbers. Recruiting of adult leaders remained a problem despite various campaigns.

The importance of the Islington Scout Centre was further recognised by a refurbishment programme in 1998 with re-opening by the then Chief Scout, George Purdy, in February 1999. This important development was offset by the loss of the full-time Centre Leader after 19 years in post as a result of cut-backs in youth service provision

by Islington Council. It has not yet been possible to secure funding fill this important vacancy. Nevertheless, the support of Islington Council with the running costs of the Scout Centre over many years is recognised. Attempts at leasing out parts of the Scout Centre building for day-time use has met with only limited success. Plans are now in hand for a new Scout Centre as part of the Holloway Road re-development scheme.

Further restructuring of the Scout Movement in the UK took place in 2002 with a new Explorer Scout Section for the 14-18 age group which is organised on a District basis, replacing the Venture Scout Section and a Scout Network for 18-25 year olds also organised at District or County level. At the present time there are four Explorer Scout Units in the Islington area.

In 2004 Islington Scouting lost its unique identity as a result of restructuring of Scouting in Central London when the new Scout District of Camden, City & Islington (CCI) was created combining the former Scout Districts of the City of London & Holborn, Hampstead, Islington, and St. Pancras.

Much has changed in Scouting during the past century, but its aim and purpose to encourage good citizenship remains and youngsters are still attracted to the fun, friendship, challenge, achievement, and for some, the responsibility that Scouting can offer to young people from 6 -25 years old.

In the Centenary year of Scouting in Islington there are still 9 strategically located Scout Groups, 4 Explorer Scout Units, a Scout Network and a Scout Fellowship totalling ~ 500- 600 members (30% female) operating within the Islington borough boundary showing an increase of 30% in membership over the previous year.

Four Scout Groups in the present CCI Scout District (1st COL, 8th Holborn and 5th Islington) have survived since 1908 and two new Groups have been started in the Islington area during the past year.

Albert Pinching

Editor's note: If anyone would like to contribute an article about the history of any of the other constituent parts of the modern CCI district, please get in touch!

FROM 8th HOLBORN

Scouts' circular weekend bike ride

Five intrepid Scouts from 8th Holborn took part in a weekend cycling camp at the May Day Bank Holiday.

Magda, Molly, Jaye and Jack had already gained their Expedition Challenge but were keen to take part in another cycle camp after their trip in the Thames Valley last year. Felix joined the veteran 8th Holborn cyclists this time.

We met at King's Cross station early on Saturday morning and loaded our bikes on the train to Hadley Wood. There we joined the Sustrans Great North Way cycle route north to Welwyn Garden City before heading east to Hertford and the Lee Navigation.

At Rye House we left the towpath for the climb up into the woods and Danemead campsite.

On Sunday we plunged back down the hill to rejoin the cycle route south through the Lee Valley, including a scenic route across Walthamstow Marshes and Hackney Marshes and great views of the Olympic stadium under construction.

At Mile End we swooped across the Green Bridge and headed for the Thames at Canary Wharf.

Here we loaded our bikes on the ferry to Rotherhithe, wheeled them through the reception of the Hilton hotel and rode through the back streets of Bermondsey before returning to Coram's Fields through the largely traffic-free streets of the City on a Sunday afternoon. A perfect spring Scouting weekend.

James Hatts

FROM 1st CITY OF LONDON

Beavers awarded Chief Scout's Bronze



Congratulations to the five members of 1st City Beavers who were awarded their Chief Scout's Bronze Award.

Alex, Shannon, Mary, Sanae and Oonagh all passed their award with flying colours. 3 more Beavers, Max, Matteo and Nora were awarded their badges and certificates by the end of May. Congratulations also to all of the 1st City Beavers who between them were awarded a massive 26 Challenge Badges at the award Ceremony on 7 May.

Dawn Hannay

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