



## FROM THE DISTRICT COMMISSIONER

# Starting a new Scouting year

**A**s I write we are about to start a new Scouting year, and in preparation I look back at some of the highlights over the last year – my first as DC.

For our **District Camp** at Gilwell over the Spring Bank Holiday weekend, Tracey Smith put together a really great programme and I was pleased to introduce the UK Chief Commissioner, Wayne Bulpitt, to the District. I was very happy at the participation and involvement by all, and we look forward to District Camp 2013 at Chalfont Heights.

Another big step was our new look **Athletics Day** on 25 June at Finsbury Park Track. For me, this went brilliantly and we will repeat and extend the activity in 2012.

Our **Census** figures for 2011 were slightly down on 2010 – but we recovered the loss by the termly census in April. We have put together an incentive for Groups who achieve an increase of 10 or more over their 2011 figure (and 5 for Explorer Units). Full details will be circulated at the next leaders' meeting. To help with recruitment, a brand new cross-sectional leaflet is in production and these are ready now. County will be undertaking another Census this term so please do all you can to fill places in your sections so that we can show further growth.

We get a steady flow of new adult **volunteers** via the County and District websites and these are directed to where we know we have need. Groups need to make sure that I am aware of all vacancies on leadership teams – and likely future requirements. The new leaflet has an adult recruiting section as well – so all in all a very useful document.

There have been some changes to the adult application process – if GSLs have any queries, they should contact me directly (or Liz Dunne – Appointments Secretary). **Getting Started** initial training continues to run in the first week of every month and future dates are 8 September, 4 October, 9 November and 1 December. All leaders who are new

appointments must attend this session – no matter their level of experience. We will run Module 10 (First Response) at least once per term, and a new Safeguarding Training package will be in place in the Autumn. Other training modules are being added to the District Diary as and when we identify suitable trainers. I am looking for someone to take on the role of **Local Training Manager**, so if you know of anyone, please let me know.

As a reminder, all **Nights Away** experiences need to be notified to me seven days ahead of departure with a NAN Form. Other than attendance at CCI District Camp, there are no exceptions to this. It is a very vital part of the paperwork that demonstrates that you are going about your Scouting in the correct way. Those of you going outside of the UK mainland need also to complete the Travel Abroad pack – obtainable from the County Commissioner – and this also needs to be signed off by me.

I hope that most of you now know that **Roger Colebrook** has been appointed as our new County Commissioner. Roger's policy is very straightforward – and is very much what I have been trying to bring about in the last year. "Full compliance with POR leads to better Scouting, which leads to more young people". We are both adamant that Good Practice is what we should be doing automatically – not something that we are just thinking about.

I have completed my 1:1 meetings with **Group Scout Leaders and Scouters-in-Charge**. As a result I'm very pleased to advise that Brian Cumpstey will become GSL of the 34th, John Gooding will be GSL of the 5th, and I have appointed Maria Velasco as GSL of the 9th/11th Hampstead. There will be more announcements soon and I plan that by the end of this year, every Group will have an active GSL in post. In addition Caroline Hill has taken on the role of District Explorer Scout Commissioner. These 1:1 meetings are a key factor in my preparation of the District Development plan.

GSLs will shortly commence our

**Leader Review** process – this is your opportunity to sit down with your GSL and look at how things are going, what you need for the future, whether you are happy in your current role and to discuss if you would like to undertake a fresh challenge. As part of this Review and Appointment Renewal, everyone will need to make sure they are progressing with training and have an up to date First Aid and Safeguarding Training certifications. All reviews need to be completed by March next year.

Sadly I need to advise of the closure of the **26th Islington** at the end of last term. I hope that past members will continue within Scouting and we are ensuring that places at other groups are available for those who want them.

As we progress into Autumn, I hope that every group will be in a position to offer all their members a regular **nights away experience** – that is one of the key factors for young people joining (that and earning badges). The YHA offers free membership to Groups and have accommodation in every part of the UK, so if you have not used them before, why not give it a try.

As a shameless plug, we have a new branch of **Cotswold Outdoor** in Upper Street. They have kindly offered the District some Coleman shelters which will be used exclusively for District events. In addition they are offering generous discounts to leaders and youth members. If you ask at the store, they will also come along to a meeting night and run a programme about the different kinds of equipment that participants need for outdoor activities.

The team is now beginning to put together the **programme for 2012** and it is important that all groups are represented at district meetings as we do want input from everyone. As a bit of advance notice, we will have a District **St George's Day** event at Coram's Fields on Sunday 22 April – more detail soon.

Meantime, have a great Autumn term.

**John Cronin**  
dc@londonscouts.org.uk

FROM THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR

# Athletics Day at Finsbury Park



**T**his year's Athletics Day offered a new twist on a classic event. Instead of a competition between colonies, packs and troops, this year the focus was on taking part and doing your best.

More than 100 Beavers, Cubs and Scouts took part and dozens of Fitness Challenge and Athlete badges were awarded.

Big thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make the day a success – it was a real team effort with support from the GLN Jamboree unit and the CCI Network.

**James Hatts**

[newsletter@londonscouts.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@londonscouts.org.uk)



**Photos by Stephen Way**

## EDITOR'S NOTE

# Welcome to the first CCI newsletter of 2011

**Y**es it's August and yes it is the first newsletter of the year. It wasn't meant to happen like that. Putting this edition together I was struck by how busy CCI has been over recent months with loads of great outdoor adventurous activities. There is plenty to read in this edition, so I hope it was worth the wait. Thank you to everyone who has contributed words and images.

My plan is that the Autumn edition of the newsletter will

be with you in the first half of October – there are lots more events to report on, including the World Scout Jamboree and all your summer camps. Please send in your reports and pictures! Please also send me your updates and additions for the diary of events so that we can make it as complete as possible.

**James Hatts**

newsletter@londonscouts.org.uk

## WHAT'S HAPPENING?

# District & County Diary

Sunday 28 August	<b>CCI Scout Network Meeting</b>	7.30pm
Thursday 1 September	<b>Section leaders' meeting</b>	7.30pm at the District Scout Centre
Wednesday 7 September	<b>District team meeting</b>	7.30pm at the District Scout Centre
Thursday 8 September	<b>Getting Started Training</b>	at the District Scout Centre
Friday 9 September	<b>DofE Award Expeditions Presentations</b>	7pm at Coram's Fields
Friday 9 to Sunday 11 September	<b>INTENSE Scout Network Camp</b>	at Woodhouse Park, Bristol
Thursday 22 September	<b>Distict Executive Committee</b>	at the District Scout Centre
Saturday 24 & Sunday 25 September	<b>County Sailing Days</b>	at Enfield Scout Sailing Association, Nazeing
Sunday 25 September	<b>CCI Scout Network Meeting</b>	7.30pm at the District Scout Centre
Tuesday 4 October	<b>Getting Started Training</b>	at the District Scout Centre
Thursday 13 October	<b>Safeguarding Training</b>	at the District Scout Centre
Friday 14 October [provisional]	<b>Duke of Edinburgh's Award Training</b>	7pm at Coram's Fields
Friday 14 to Sunday 16 October	<b>Alton Towers Network Camp</b>	at Drum Hill Campsite
Saturday 15 October	<b>Chiltern 20 Challenge</b>	
Sunday 30 October	<b>CCI Scout Network Meeting</b>	7.30pm
Thursday 3 November	<b>District Annual General Meeting</b>	
Wednesday 9 November	<b>Getting Started Training</b>	at the District Scout Centre
Friday 11 November [provisional]	<b>Duke of Edinburgh's Award Training</b>	7pm at Coram's Fields
Wednesday 16 November	<b>County Awards Evening</b>	at the RAF Museum, Hendon
Sunday 27 November	<b>CCI Scout Network Meeting</b>	7.30pm
Thursday 1 December	<b>Getting Started Training</b>	at the District Scout Centre
Friday 2 to Sunday 4 December	<b>Young Leader Training Weekend</b>	
Wednesday 7 December	<b>District Executive Committee</b>	
Friday 9 December [provisional]	<b>Duke of Edinburgh's Award Training</b>	7pm at Coram's Fields
Saturday 10 December	<b>CCI Scout Network Christmas Dinner</b>	
Saturday 11 February 2012	<b>Southern 50 Challenge</b>	
Saturday 3 March 2012	<b>Winter Mad Venture</b>	at Phasel's Wood Activity Centre
Friday 30 March to Sunday 1 April 2012	<b>DofE Award Training Weekend</b>	at Longridge, Marlow
Sunday 22 April 2012	<b>CCI St George's Day Event</b>	at Coram's Fields
Sunday 10 June 2012	<b>County Raft Race</b>	at Enfield Scout Sailing Association
Friday 24 to Monday 27 May 2013	<b>District Camp</b>	at PACCAR Scout Camp, Chalfont Heights

FROM THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR

# District Camp 2011

**G**roups from across CCI and beyond took part in this year's District Camp at Gilwell Park. Tracey Smith did an amazing job organising the camp which was a great success. Each group was assigned a country as its theme for the weekend.

Saturday's programme began with a series of activity bases organised by groups, from tie-die T-shirt making to Scalextric racing and backwoods skills.

Sunday's highlight was the Epping Forest hike organised by the DC, with an incredible 40 teams taking part. The adventures of the 8th Holborn Beaver Scout team even got a write-up in the Daily Telegraph!

The excellent Gilwell site activities included the 3G swing, archery, canoeing and high ropes.



There were also evening wide games for the Scout and Explorer sections.

A new addition to the repertoire was the opportunity to take part in a horseriding session – this proved popular with many Cubs and Scouts.

Arrangements for the next District Camp are already in hand: 24 to 27 May 2013 at Paccar Scout Camp, Chalfont Heights. Put it in your diary now!

**James Hatts**

[newsletter@londonscouts.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@londonscouts.org.uk)



## From the Chief Commissioner's blog

"It was back to Gilwell on Saturday afternoon to join 400 members of Camden City and Islington District who were camping at Gilwell for the weekend. Things have not been easy in the district over the past few years so it was great to catch up with the leaders and team and to discuss how they have been able to turn it around over the past couple of years.

"I was particularly interested in an innovative approach to the traditional sports day which is being reorganised to ensure that all participants have an opportunity to attain their sports and challenge badges, whilst dampening just a little of the excessive competitiveness spirit of previous years, largely being exhibited by the leaders rather than young people!"

**Wayne Bulpitt**

[www.scouts.org.uk/cblog](http://www.scouts.org.uk/cblog)

Photos by Magnus Paterson

FROM 1st CITY OF LONDON

# Environment Award



**O**n Saturday 7 May 28 youth members of 1st City pulled on their wellies and waterproofs and headed down to the banks of the Thames close to Southwark Bridge. There they teamed up with Thames21 river clean up charity to scramble along the rocks and wade through mud pools, (sometimes sinking up to their knees!). After a couple of hours they had collected 15 bags of rubbish, found a few dubious looking fish, lots of bones and various artefacts and were immensely proud of themselves.

After a clean up and quick snack, they then moved on to join City Gardens for a fun filled event in the newly opened Smithfield Garden.

There they built loggeries for the stag beetles and collected interesting bits and pieces for the insect hotel.

The children had participated in the RSPB bird watch with City Gardens in the early part of the year. It was agreed that attendance at all three events would entitle the young people to receive the Environment Award and what a fantastic, fun way to achieve it!

**Dawn Hannay**  
Beaver Scout Leader

FROM THE ADC (NETWORK)

## New skills, challenges & fun



**W**ell it's been a busy few months for CCI Network! At the end of April we went to the National Network Gathering, a Network activity camp in Windermere (where we met the new County Commissioner) and got covered in mud from head to toe at the infamous Sunday games.

In June we had a service camp as part of CCI District camp, where we invested four members and in July we went to Sun Run Network/ Explorer camp in Gloucester, where we met Wayne Bulpitt and participated in the 'Moon Run' hike, which we completed in 4h17m. We've also started our climbing programme and are planning our 2012 programme as you read!

In Network, members plan and organise their own programme and the Network members have come up with some great ideas for 2012! Highlights of our 2012 programme include an international adventure and a Giant Sandwich world record attempt!

Over the next few months we're planning to take part in Intense camp and Alton Towers camp as well as some great adventures closer to home - watch this space!

Head over the CCI Network website and facebook page for pictures:

- [www.CCI-network.org.uk](http://www.CCI-network.org.uk)
- [www.facebook.com/CCInetwork](http://www.facebook.com/CCInetwork)

If you're 18-25 and would like to join us, to learn some skills, challenge yourself and have some fun, contact me

**Gilly Gray**  
[gilly@cci-network.org.uk](mailto:gilly@cci-network.org.uk)

### AN INVITATION

## Sponsored walk/run

On Saturday 10 September the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, a charity based in our district, is holding its annual Walk/Run to to Cure Diabetes. Families and friends can come to Regent's Park and take part in the 5k walk/run and fun activities for the day for free. There is no registration fee and participants are asked try and raise some money for the charity. The JDRF provides fun activities for children along with food. This year's event has a teddy bear's picnic theme. Details: [www.jdrf.org.uk](http://www.jdrf.org.uk)

### CONGRATULATIONS

## Awards update

Since the last edition of the newsletter several members of the district have received special awards. They include:

- Aileen Barry, our former DC, who received a Regional Adult Achievement Award for her outstanding and dedicated service to Scouting
- Jenny Cumpstey (34th Islington) and Lynn Edgerton (19th/23rd Islington) have both received their certificates and badges for 40 years of service to Scouting

FROM THE EVENT ORGANISERS

# CCI Paddlesports @ Longridge

**A** total of 75 Scouts, Explorers and leaders took part in this year's CCI Paddlesports camp, held as usual at Longridge on the Thames at Marlow.

As well as Scouts from 1st City of London, 8th Hampstead, 8th Holborn, 22nd Hampstead and 31st Islington, we were joined by friends from beyond CCI: 3rd Squirrels Heath, 16th Bermondsey and 23rd Southgate.

On Saturday the Scouts were divided into four teams with experienced CCI Explorers Calum, Magda, Jaye and Jamie as their guides around the different activities: Canoeing, Kayaking, Land-based Nautical Skills and Bellboating. Under the watchful eye of some very experienced coaches, the scouts were able to work towards their Paddlepower Passport as well as their Basic Nautical Skills badge. The more experienced paddlers were put into a "masterclass" and were soon being put through their paces paddling solo in open canoes.

In the evening, the nautical theme continued with activities including competitive line-throwing, ropework, map-reading and first aid. The day



finished with a wide game tournament (why play one when you can play four?!) and an impromptu campfire run by the Explorers, revived after their discovery of 20p sandwiches and chocolates at the Marlow Sainsbury's.

On Sunday, everyone set out on an expedition down the river. Working in small teams with an 'expert' guide, the scouts first investigated the dangers of Marlow weir (from a safe distance) before heading downstream and circumnavigating the islands near Cookham. On the way some of the Scouts were even able to lend

a hand by rescuing a rugby ball from the river for a local school team. The mass flotilla paused at a nearby beach before heading back to Longridge, against the flow... By the time everyone returned to the campsite, the sun was out and many of the Scouts took the opportunity to complete their 50 metre swim test.

Thanks to our team of volunteer canoe coaches led by Julian Fulbrook we are able to run this event at a very affordable price: £20 before food and transport. The Scout Association's own Activity Centres are currently advertising the same course for £65, and you could pay substantially more on the open market.

As well as the Scouts all achieving great things on the water, the willingness of both scouts and leaders from all the eight groups who took part to join in and make things happen really made this camp the success that it was. Thank you so much to everyone that took part. We hope to see you all again in two years' time.

**Helen Sinclair**  
**James Hatts**

FROM 1st ISLINGTON & ACORN ESU

# From Clerkenwell to Cambodia



**BOOKBRIDGE**

**A**corn Explorer Scout Unit and 1st Islington took part in Bookbridge this summer, collecting books to send to two new libraries in Cambodia.

In many schools around the world pupils are taught without any books at all. Bookbridge aims to change that by building libraries with donated books. In the summer of 2010 the first Bookbridge Library was built in Mongolia – it has 13,000 books and to date more than 25,000 children have benefited. In 2011 they are aiming to build six more libraries. The UK Scout Association has twinned up to help find



books for the library in Cambodia.

As a group we collected in excess of 300 books which we sent off to the project. The whole group were all involved in the effort from Beavers to Explorers – the Beavers helped us count, the Cubs designed posters and Scouts sorted through the books to check they were appropriate. The Explorers and Leaders also went to the national sorting days in Nottingham – whilst we were there we sorted through nearly 40,000 books, loading hundreds of boxes into containers! Across the country at least 70,000 books were collected.

You can find our more about Bookbridge, the libraries and our links with Scouts at [www.bookbridge.org/scouts](http://www.bookbridge.org/scouts). The books collected will be a huge boost to children in Cambodia – thank you to every one that helped!

**Chris Hunt**  
Explorer Scout Leader



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**NEW STORE Cotswold Outdoor Islington**  
116-118 Islington High Street, London, N1 8EG  
Tel: 0207 354 1166

FROM 1st ISLINGTON

FROM GREATER LONDON NORTH

# Activity Weekend

# Claire meets Bear

**O**n a surprisingly warm February afternoon a group of Cubs and Scouts from 1st Islington gathered together for our activity camp. We stayed at Grosvenor Hall in Kent, an activity centre run by Kingswood.



During the weekend we did lots of different activities including 3G swing, descender, Curriculum Maze, Laser-Zone, quad biking, zip wire, climbing and many more. The accommodation was very luxurious with en-suite rooms and the food excellent.

Whilst we were there we also made use of the centre's pool to work towards the swimming badges. All of the young people gained at least one stage of the swimmers badge, several got two! The Scouts also got the opportunity to make a good start on their climbers badge, we'll be doing the rest in June. Several of the activities also allowed the Cubs and Scouts to push their boundaries – climbing high up the descender or making that first jump on the zip wire.

Everybody that went had a great time, and we're all raring to go for our next nights away!

**C**laire Sanders from 22nd Hampstead was among 300 Queen's Scouts on parade at Windsor on 1 May in front of Bear Grylls and The Hon Mary Bayliss, Lord Lieutenant of the Royal County of Berkshire.

"Gaining my Queen's Scout Award has been one of the highlights of my Scouting life so far," said Claire.

She added: "Being a Scout Leader can at times be challenging but it makes me so proud to watch 'my kids' grow through the movement, I wouldn't stop for all the world."

FROM HEADQUARTERS

## Risk assessment & head counts in groups

**I**would like to take this opportunity to remind all adults within Scouting of the importance of following our rules and guidance. There have been a number of recent incidents in which it has been apparent that guidance has not been followed during both planning and running of Scouting activities.

The Scout Association rules and guidance require risk assessments be carried out for all activities. A risk assessment allows those running the activity to identify potential hazards and to take steps to minimise these whilst delivering an exciting activity to the young people in their care. In addition The Scout Association rules and guidance sets out adult to young people ratios in certain circumstances and in others these should be determined by a risk assessment. However, some people may rely too heavily on these ratios in terms of monitoring the group

and need to consider the importance of when head counts need to be conducted, where and by whom.

### Risk Assessment

A risk assessment must be carried out for all activities but this does not need to be a time consuming process. More important is that a risk assessment is regularly reviewed both before and during an activity. Experience shows it is often the activity which is run regularly with little perceived risk where incidents may occur. Regular re-assessment of familiar activities will allow those running the activity to identify changes in the risks over time. Further information can be found in factsheet FS120000 Activities – Risk Assessment.

### Head Counts

It is difficult to be prescriptive as to when head counts should be done. It is

important that these are considered for all age groups in all outdoor activities and, specifically, when young people are moving as a group. A considered view is that these should be done when there is a change of terrain or overcoming a particular hazard. In the younger age groups this could be done when a walking group moves from one terrain to another (eg from one field to another or from a road to a track) or crossing the road. For those in adventurous activities it could be when paddling around a bend, moving around a rocky outcrop or, generally, when moving in poor visibility. Furthermore, for larger groups, it should be agreed as to who conducts these to remove the expectation that these will be conducted by someone else.

**Alex Minajew**

UK Commissioner for Programme

Received from the DC and printed without further comment



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Members of the District Executive Committee	<p><b>Ex-officio:</b> District Chairman, District Secretary, District Treasurer, District Commissioner, District Explorer Scout Commissioner, Assistant District Commissioner (Scout Network), Scout Active Support Manager</p> <p><b>Invited:</b> Joan Feakes (Appointments Advisory Cttee Chair), Jackie Lindsay (Girlguiding UK)</p> <p><b>Elected:</b> Brian Cumpstey (2009), Jenny Cumpstey (2008), Anne Hill (2009), Jennifer Mann (2010)</p> <p><b>Appointed:</b> Abdelmajid Afdel (2010), Ruth Anderson (2010), David Hudson (2010), Dennis Rowen (2009)</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>The year shown is when last appointed without a break. After five years members stand down for at least one year.</i></p>		