

FROM THE DISTRICT COMMISSIONER

A plan for action



Association), and my grand-daughter is a Cub Scout.

My first few weeks in the role of DC have been quite a challenge. I am determined to visit with every Group in the District before they break for the summer, and fitting those visits into the diary is quite a task in itself – aside from the fact that it is basically a round trip of over 170 miles for me each time. When I met with Barry Manley, the County Commissioner, in mid April, I proposed the following action plan (in each section, they are not ranked in order of importance):

For those of you who do not know me, I began my adult scouting at 1st City of London in 1986 when I took my son along to join Beavers. Since then I have been a Group Treasurer, Beaver Scout Helper, Assistant Cub Scout Leader, Scout Leader, GSL, DSL (Scouts), ADC (Scouts), ADC (District Events), Group President, Group Chairman, County First Aid Advisor and finally a Local Training Manager. I live in rural Cambridgeshire and hold appointments both in CCI/GLN and Cambridgeshire. I run my own freelance press, PR and marketing consultancy service in the music industry – specialising in classical, world and jazz music genres. I am also a registered assessor for the Duke of Edinburgh Award, and I advise on and co-ordinate the award as a consultant for the City of London. My fiancée, Veronica, is a GSL/BSL in the village where we live (we are getting married in August this year). We have six children between us (all of whom have been – or are – members of the Scout

By end of July

- Every Group to be visited and a meeting with all leaders held. What does each Group need from the District?
- Visit District Fellowship/SAS and formulate an plan for fuller involvement in the District
- Meet with District Chairman
- Visit key departments at Gilwell
- Put together a full assessment overview of Group needs in all areas across the District and reformulate the District Development Plan
- Revitalise District Team
- Review and re-commission District Website and District Newsletter (latter to have sectional pages).
- Re-examine proposals for new District HQ
- Meet with neighbouring DCs to examine their structure
- Undertake a thorough review of leader warrants

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What's on

Leaders' Meeting

Thursday 2 September
 → 7.30pm Scout Centre

Getting Started training

Wednesday 8 September
 → dc@londonscouts.org.uk

Jamboree Fun Day

Saturday 12 September
 → Turn to page 5

Scouts Night Hike

Saturday 18 September
 → Provisional date

Getting Started training

Tuesday 5 October
 → dc@londonscouts.org.uk

Getting Started training

Wednesday 3 November
 → dc@londonscouts.org.uk

District AGM

Thursday 4 November
 → Details in next newsletter

District Quiz

Saturday 27 November
 → Turn to page 2

Getting Started training

Thursday 2 December
 → dc@londonscouts.org.uk

Getting Started training

Wednesday 5 January
 → dc@londonscouts.org.uk

Changes to the district calendar?
newsletter@londonscouts.org.uk

- Instigate a full and accurate CRB database
- Continue to run "Getting Started" on a monthly basis.
- Continue to drive registrations on BackPack
- Appointments secretary and LTA to be one and the same person, and be a member of District Team

By 31 July

- Announce District Structure and personnel. In essence, there will be an ADC and two District Scouters for Beavers, Cubs & Scouts; a District Explorer Commissioner (with an Admin Assistant); ADC Network; ADC (Active Support); District D of E Adviser; and finally an ADC (Group Support) independent individual who I will call upon in Safeguarding issues and who will be deployed as required. There will be other roles as well, yet to be finalised.
- Devise new job descriptions for ADC (sectional), which will include a visit by them (or deputy) at least twice per year to all of their Groups.
- Have a District Team Scarf made so Team members clearly identifiable at District events

September onwards

- Follow up with every Group with a 1:1 with GSL and undertake a thorough review of the structure of each group, programme plans, programme content, leader training etc., and objectives agreed going forward. Put a date in the diary in 2011 for Annual Review Meeting. Reset objectives if needs be throughout the year.
- Revitalise District Leader Meetings – which will be termly and will demonstrate advance planning, and will use a variety of locations.
- Redefine the District Development Plan by 31/12/2010
- Implement a District Activity Programme which will include a minimum of one sectional activity every term.

- Review Plans for District Camp 2011, book venue for 2012 and consider an International camp in 2013.
- Raise profile of CCI at County level.
- Develop links with other youth organisations in the area
- Develop links with Borough Councils
- Put a plan in place (with Development Officer) for recruiting in local schools to Groups with low numbers.
- Hold a monthly meeting with Development Officer
- Diarise Monthly District (Core) Team Meetings, and quarterly for extended Team
- Annual Section Review Meetings with each ADC
- Examine structure of District Executive along with the Chairman
- Continue the GSL Forum on a twice yearly basis.
- With CTM instigate regular training programmes for all leaders
- Resurrect Cubs Sixers Council and Scout PL Forum as well as Unit Forums.
- Try to attend one Group Executive Committee Meeting for each Group annually.

Ongoing Objectives

- DC to continue as LTM in the interim but develop a team of District Trainers for specific Modules – using the Core Team to start with.
- Every Group to have a dedicated GSL – who also acts as TA for their Group. If this is not possible, then develop "cluster Groups" under one GSL
- All District Team members to complete the Wood Badge for their role within six months of full appointment
- Each member of core District Team will take responsibility for the implementation of at least one target on the District Development Plan – in addition to their sectional role

As I am sure you will appreciate, this is quite an agenda, but so far, things seem to be going to schedule – but please bear with me if my deadlines have to

move back a little. As a district we need to tighten up on a few admin tasks – CRB clearances, Nights Away Permits, BackPack Registrations, Getting Started and Ongoing Training (to name just a few) and I trust you will all work with me on this to achieve our targets. I really want to try and improve and speed up our communication channels, so going forward, details on sectional activities will come directly from the ADC to all of the leaders in their section. I will communicate with GSLs on relevant matters, and they in turn will cascade that where needed to Group Scouters.

CCI is on the brink of being the "jewel in the crown", not just in the London Region, but nationally. The redevelopment of the Centre will give us the funding we need to provide the best Scouting possible for the young people in our district today, and for many, many years to come. We have to be forward thinking and bold in our approach and I believe that we have the personnel at all levels in CCI to help this come to fruition.

I can always be contacted via dc@londonscouts.org.uk or 07774 426966. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if there is something you need to discuss.

John Cronin
dc@londonscouts.org.uk

It's back...

DISTRICT QUIZ

Saturday 27 November
Scout Centre
Starting 7.30pm

Teams of no more than 6 please

- Fish & chip supper
- Cost still only £8 per person
- Bring your own drink

Numbers to Anne Hill
by Saturday 20 November:
01707 890135

Please send your summer camp reports and other news to newsletter@londonscouts.org.uk by Friday 10 September

FROM 201st ISLINGTON

Mad Venture hike

This year's Mad Venture hike took place in the Hertfordshire countryside, starting and finishing at Danemead scout campsite near Broxbourne.

A total of 8 teams entered the competition, from the 1st Islington, 8th Hampstead, 8th Holborn, 19th/23rd Islington, 22nd Hampstead, 31st Islington and 201st Islington.

The teams set off at timed intervals and had to complete a 7 mile route with the teams having to reach a number of checkpoints along the way, at each of which they had a task to do, which earned them points. There were also a number of questions to answer along the way at set grid references that also earned points.

The checkpoints included a map quiz, a bushtucker trial, heaving a line, a mental agility task and constructing a shelter.

We were a bit worried when 1 team appeared back at the start about 20 minutes after they had left, but they were soon on their way again – in the right direction. The weather on the



day was pretty ideal for hiking but rain earlier in the week had left the trails muddy to add to the fun. Another team called in to the emergency number as they had strayed off the route and were talked back onto the right path. After 2 further calls it was decided to parachute in 2 Explorer Scouts (via minibus!) to help them along and make sure that they stayed on the right path.

In the event only 3 teams made it back to Danemead in time to do the final checkpoint task, but all were back in time to partake of a well deserved

burger and hotdog while the scores were added up.

In third place was the team from the 8th Holborn, in second were the combined 31st / 201st 'A' team, and the winners were the combined 31st / 201st 'B' team. A big well done to all those that took part and I hope everyone had an enjoyable day.

Many thanks to all the scouts for taking part, all the leaders for helping on the day and the ladies of the 201st for sorting out the catering.

Mark Thompson

FROM ADC (Beaver Scouts)

Swimming Gala

We had 4 groups attend the second Beaver Swimming Gala, we had two categories – swimmers and non-swimmers – with 2 heats and a final for both the 6 & 7 year old swimmers in front and back crawl and finals only for the 6 & 7 year old non-swimmers in front and back crawl with a little help from some floats, we also managed to have 10 minutes free time in the pool and all this accomplished with an hour. All Beavers had a great time and thank you all the Beaver Leaders for all their help and Alan who was our starter.



6 Year Old Winners: 1st City
Runners Up: 8th Holborn
Joint 3rd: 11th & 31st Islington

7 Year Old Winners: 8th Holborn
Runners Up: 11th Islington
3rd Place: 31st Islington
4th Place: 1st City

Overall Winners: 1st City



Tracey Smith

adcbeavers@londonscouts.org.uk

FROM 201st ISLINGTON

ShelterBox Scavenger Hunt



On Saturday 12 June five Cubs from the 201st took part in the ShelterBox Scavenger Hunt

The route took us through Kensington Gardens and Hyde Park. We passed the Royal Albert Hall, Princess Diana's Memorial Fountain, the Serpentine, Hyde Park Corner and the Natural History Museum.

The route was about five miles and took three and a half hours to complete.

Nearly 500 Scouts and Leaders descended on London for a fun-filled, action packed day solving clues and going the extra mile for ShelterBox.

More than 90 different teams were challenged to navigate around London by following a series of clues while carrying one of the iconic green boxes. On the route we had to find five more ShelterBoxes, each containing more clues and mystery items!

We are planning to take part in next year's hunt as the Cubs really enjoyed the day so much.

Martin Manners

Cub Scout Leader, 201st Islington

- 1st: 1st Horsell Cub Scout Pack from Woking, Surrey
- 2nd: 201st Islington Cub Scout Pack
- 3rd: 9th Erith Cub Scout Pack from Kent

FROM DISTRICT TREASURER

Raise cash for your group & Jamboree unit

The District Draw will take place at the District AGM on Thursday 4 November.

This is a chance for your group to raise cash. After expenses the money raised will go towards Jamboree funds and your group according to the number of books your group has sold. The draw tickets will be available at the beginning of September. There are 5 tickets to a book at a cost of £1 per ticket of £5 per book. There is no expense to your group: all you have to do is sell tickets and make money.

Alvis Hill

treasurer@londonscouts.org.uk

SCOUT NETWORK

Inter-net

Inter-net is an international event for Networks and Rover Scouts to be held at Newbury Show Ground from 21 to 30 July 2011. For more information please see www.inter-net.org.uk

ATHLETICS COMPETITION

Sports Day results

A successful day despite windy weather. Five Beaver Scout Colonies, nine Cub Scout Packs, eight Scout Troops, three Explorer Scout Units and One Scout Network took part, with Islington Brownies joining us for the first time.

Cub Scouts 8-year-old competition

- 1st 19th/23rd Islington
- 2nd 201st Islington
- 3rd 11th Islington

Cub Scouts 9-year-old competition

- 1st 201st Islington
- Joint 2nd 19th/23rd & 34th

Cub Scouts 10-year-old competition

- Joint 1st 8th Holborn/5th Isl.
- 3rd 201st Islington

Cub Scouts overall competition

- 1st 201st Islington
- 2nd 19th/23rd Islington
- 3rd 31st Islington

Scouts Class A competition

- Joint 1st 19th/23rd & 201st
- 3rd 1st City of London

Scouts Class B competition

- 1st 34th Islington
- 2nd 19th/23rd Islington
- 3rd 8th Holborn

Scouts overall competition

- 1st 19th/23rd Islington
- 2nd 34th Islington
- 3rd 11th Islington

A big thank you to the Islington Guides who were the track judges and to Sally our starter and her husband Paul who was the independent adjudicator. Also thanks to Peter, Lynn, Jenny, Mark, Jean and Adam who did the field judging and do all the mums, dads and leaders who helped with the Beaver section. And to Alan and Jen for setting up the track events. The Fellowship provided refreshments and John Cronin ran the day through his PA system.

Angela, Tracey, Fiona & Brian

LOST PROPERTY

Did you leave the guy lines for your gazebo at Coram's Fields on St George's Day? If so, please contact james@hatts.co.uk to arrange return.

Jamboree Fundraising Family Fun Day



22ND WORLD SCOUT JAMBOREE SWEDEN 2011
UNITED KINGDOM
Greater London North Unit

Sunday 12th September 2010

Scout Park Gordon Road Bounds Green London N11 2PB

12:00 – 4:00 pm

Refreshments

FUN!

Tent pitching competition

Treasure Hunts

Climbing

Archery

And many more exciting things to do

£1 entry fee

