

# Windsor and Eton Scout Newsletter

April 2014



It has been many years since we have produced a District newsletter. Windsor and Eton District is so active with some fantastic things going on at all our Beavers, Cub, Scout and Explorer groups that it seemed a great idea to share just some of the things that are going on with the whole District.



District Commissioner David Smith and District Chairman David Cannon at Datchet

## Notes from the District Commissioner

Firstly may I congratulate our leaders from the District for all their help to the community during the floods in February. Many of our leaders in Scouting took up vital roles, leading at the volunteer centres and helping in all kinds of ways. I was very proud to see so many involved and helping and it shows to me what great people

we have involved in Scouting. In just one example I was asked at short notice by the Army if we could supply 3 or 4 adult leaders to help with sandbagging at Datchet Golf Club. In the end 12 adults turned up – Great support ! Unfortunately some of us were flooded, including the 2<sup>nd</sup> Datchet Scout Headquarters and Jenny and Denis Gudgeon – we wish them well and hope that things get back to normal as quickly as possible.

## Scout Census

Group Scout Leaders and Group Secretaries have been busy in the last few months. Windsor and Eton District continues to grow at a very healthy rate with a further 2% increase this year. What was most pleasing is that we saw an overall increase of 8% in the number of adults helping. In total there are 644 Scouts/leaders in Windsor & Eton compared with 496 5 years ago !

Parents know that the experience that their children get from Scouting is both invaluable and great fun. On behalf of myself and all parents may I take this opportunity to thank all our leaders and committee members.

With more adult volunteers we can create even better Scouting for more young people.

## The Dyson Hut



Well we are getting very close to completion on the new Dyson Hut at Bears Rail Scout Campsite, Old Windsor thanks to the generosity of many organisations and people. As we speak the flooring is going in and the hearth of the fireplace. The weather has recently held the builders up but we fully expect the building to be in use for the Summer and an official opening in August. In total over

£130,000 has been raised for the new building which will be a fantastic resource for Scouting and our campsite.

**St George's Day Parade** – In order to avoid the Easter holidays and the National Scout St George's day our District parade will be on **4<sup>th</sup> May** – parade leaving Batchelors Acre at 2.30pm. I need 12 road marshals (parents / leaders) to help with the road closure. Contact

[david\\_smith09@btinternet.com](mailto:david_smith09@btinternet.com)



**Training** – When an adult volunteers to become a leader with one of our Scout sections then they commit also to undertake a level of training. Full training is completed with the award of the Wood Badge and we are very pleased that this has recently been achieved by Peter Harrold (12ths) Linda Woodall (12ths) Nick Chapman (11ths) and Sally Weston (1<sup>st</sup> Eton Wick) Congratulations !

### **New Cub pack – Central Windsor.**

We were very pleased to see a second cub pack open at Central Windsor thanks to the help of new volunteer adults coming forward so a very big thank you again to all of them to make this possible. On the 9<sup>th</sup> January 15 new cubs were invested and a further 9 cubs have joined since.

### **Archives**

The District holds a fantastic collection of archives of both Windsor and Eton District and that of



Berkshire County. Rupert Allison is the District Archivist and is currently listing and categorising all our records. If there is anyone (including parents!) who would be interested in helping with this mammoth task please contact [david\\_smith09@btinternet.com](mailto:david_smith09@btinternet.com)

1st Eton Wick Scout Group 1933

## WINGS

August sees the District host the WINGS International Scout camp in the Windsor Great Park with 6000 Scouts and Guides attending plus leaders. On the 6<sup>th</sup> August the camp also welcomes 1000 Cubs and Brownies to experience the camp and all the activities. Our District will be allocated 30 places for this day. If your pack is interested in attending then contact David Smith so he can coordinate the bookings for this and our allocation.

## World Scout Jamboree – Japan

We were delighted when 5 Scouts from Windsor and Eton District were selected to join a Berkshire contingent for the World Scout Jamboree in Japan 2015. Jack Goddard (2<sup>nd</sup> Datchet) Dylan Crick (2<sup>nd</sup> Datchet) James Redford (Central Windsor) Alexander Clark (1<sup>st</sup> Datchet) and Zander MacKay (1<sup>st</sup> Datchet)



176 Scouts attended a weekend camp back in October to select a 45 strong contingent. Many sadly did not make the team and at this time in writing we are looking at a two week camp in Africa for those that did not get selected. Berkshire Scouting organised a highly successful project in Uganda last year and at the moment the idea is to run something again on those lines ... more details to come on this.

For our 5 Scouts selected to represent us a fantastic experience awaiting as they join 36,000 other Scouts from all round the world in Japan and at present they are busy fundraising to help pay the costs of the trip.

## Volunteer opportunities

Group Scout Leader - 5<sup>th</sup> Windsor  
Asst Beaver Leader – 1<sup>st</sup> Eton Wick  
Help with Archives – Windsor & Eton District  
Beaver Leader – 11<sup>th</sup> Windsor (Cranbourne)  
Website Help – Windsor & Eton District  
Training Advisers – Windsor & Eton

If you would like to help in any of these roles or would like to know more then contact David Smith on 01753 542098 or [david\\_smith09@btinternet.com](mailto:david_smith09@btinternet.com)

## The Brains of the District ..

Congratulations to the 1<sup>st</sup> Eton Wick Cub Pack for winning the District Quiz on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb

## PAT Testing

Please note that PAT testing on Scout Headquarters throughout the District can be organised free of charge by booking through our Health and safety coordinator Howard de Silva [safetycoordinator\\_county@berkshirescouts.org.uk](mailto:safetycoordinator_county@berkshirescouts.org.uk)

**The District AGM** will be on **25<sup>th</sup> June** at Eton College National History Museum – More details to follow.

**Snowdonia** – Our Explorer Scouts attended a very successful hill walking and climbing weekend in Snowdonia weekend in February. Thank you to Matthew Bolt for organising this.

## Dragon Boat Regatta - 8<sup>th</sup> June 2014



A fantastic fun-filled team-building event for Cubs, Scouts, Explorers, Network & Leaders.

No previous experience or is required as your team will be under the supervision of an experienced qualified helm the whole time they are on the water.

The event will be at Wokingham Waterside Centre, who will also be providing the boats, buoyancy aids, paddles etc.

The entry fee will be £ 55 per team of 11. Groups can book via the Berkshire Scout website.

### Jamboree Fundraising Event

A Race Night is to be held at Datchet Village Hall on 6<sup>th</sup> September in to help raise funds for the participants attending the World Jamboree. Please book the date in your diaries. It should be a really good fun night out and for a good cause.

## Scouts show support at London Irish fun day

**Hundreds of Scouts got the VIP treatment from the London Irish rugby team last Sunday as they attended a special match for the club's annual Scouts and Guides day.**

A total of 1,300 Scouts and Guides cheered on the team against Leicester Tigers at the Majeski Stadium, Reading.



**Lastly**, if you would like to advertise your event or tell the District about a camp or activity you've been on then please let David Smith know so it can be included in our next District newsletter ... and if you're a parent that can help your Group in any way please do let us know. We require help in all kinds of things from Administration to Climbing and abseiling instructors.