

Bourne Again

*** STOP PRESS: Two new Squirrel Dreys have opened in Croydon since our April 2024 Newsletter with more to follow soon ***



DC Report

By the time you read this I will have stepped down as DC. It has been an honour. We must remember that we are **Adult volunteers** who do amazing things week in week out. We are also **custodians** of our Sections, Groups and the District, our legacy will be inherited by future generations.

In the last 6 or so years we have seen:

- Covid
- Brexit
- War in Ukraine
- Great Orme

Don't want to do these things again

- Three maybe four prime ministers
- A new King
- Our first Kings Scout

We must accept the first two and get more top awards. Our younger members will be given the chance to undertake life changing experiences, we will give them **Skills for Life**

We are passionate about what we do. We are Croydon District Scouts

One District - One Movement - One World

Greg Cook
District Commissioner
Email: dc@croydonscouting.org.uk

District Chair

By the time you read this the AGM will be over and we will be in transformational mode I think.

I certainly am, as whilst writing this, I think I am either acting or interim chair of the new Board of Trustees since Julie stood down as interim and I may be appointed permanent Chairman at the AGM along with a number of new and existing Trustees. But that's for the AGM to decide.

I've been a District Chairman before under the old scheme of things, (it might have been in the last millennia) but it will still be steep learning curves with all the 'changes' to Trustee roles and responsibilities. Years of being a Cub Leader and the 37th GSL at the glorious South and Upper Norwood may help.

I, along with Theresa, have agreed to do the first year and hopefully use our experience to make a smooth transition for those who follow. Our time at County and Theresa's stint as DC, saw us negotiate a number of changes. We are both determined and committed to do everything practical to assist the new Trustees.

I will have to give the Premises role some thought as Property ownership is one of the key areas for Trustees.

Referring to our two jewels of the District Bears wood and Pinewood. Both are doing exceptionally well and will be drawing up development plans for the new Board of Trustees. In the meantime the new traversing wall is looking great at Bears Wood and Pinewood is hosting instructors courses to allow more Groups to run self-led activities.

Both sites will also have recently been visited and inspected by our landlord.

Bernard Farrell
District Chair
Email: chair@croydonscouting.org.uk

Changes in the District

Following the District AGM held on Friday 28th June 2024, there were significant changes made to the Board of Trustees inline with the Scout Association recommendations and refocusing of the priorities of the board.

Effective Friday 28th June all current Trustees stood down having first approved the nominations for the new Board of Trustees.

New Board of Trustees

Bernie Farrall (Chair)

Matthew Hewitt (Treasurer)

Theresa Jeffrey (Trustee)

Elizabeth Peters (Trustee)

Richard Goad (Trustee)

A.N. Other (Trustee) Still to be identified.

DC / District Lead Volunteer

Adkin Camping Challenge 2024

Adkin camping challenge and the Adkin trophy has been going since 1925. At one stage it was a challenge for Purley District Scouts and became a Croydon District event when the District merged. This is the first year since that it has been one by a non-Purley Troop!

Well done 28th Croydon.



'One District One Movement'

PLEASE NOTE:-

NEW EMAIL ADDRESSES have been rolled out for the Board of Trustees and members of the District team. This avoids the use of personal email addresses in the future.

Please use these email addresses for all future correspondence. This will help with succession planning and enable continuity in the District / Groups when members leave roles and new members take over.

District Board of Trustees:

Chair: chair@croydonscouting.org.uk

Vice Chair: (Currently vacant)

Treasurer: treasurer@croydonscouting.org.uk

Theresa Jeffrey: District email tba

Beth Peters: District email tba

Richard Goad: desc@croydonscouting.org.uk

DC / (Volunteer Lead) dc@croydonscouting.org.uk

(Other District Contacts)

Bookkeeper: bookkeeper@croydonscouting.org.uk

Secretary: secretary@croydonscouting.org.uk

Premises: premises@croydonscouting.org.uk

Awards: awards@croydonscouting.org.uk

Adult Support: adultsupport@croydonscouting.org.uk

Jack Petchey Scheme: zkhan@croydonscouting.org.uk

Public Relations: pr@croydonscouting.org.uk

Appointments: (Currently unused)

District Team:

DC: dc@croydonscouting.org.uk

DDC: (Currently unused)

ADC Beavers: beavers@croydonscouting.org.uk

ADC Cubs: cubs@croydonscouting.org.uk

ADC Scouts: scouts@croydonscouting.org.uk

Explorer Commissioner: desc@croydonscouting.org.uk

Network Commissioner: network@croydonscouting.org.uk

Youth Commissioner: yc@croydonscouting.org.uk

Training: training@croydonscouting.org.uk

Chaplain: chaplain@croydonscouting.org.uk

District Campsites / Assets:

Bears Wood Camp Site

Website: www.bearswoodcampsite.org.uk

Bookings: bookings@bearswoodcampsite.org.uk

Pinewood Scout Centre

Website: www.pinewoodscoutcentre.org.uk

Bookings: bookings@pinewoodscoutcentre.org.uk

District Website: www.croydonscouting.org.uk



One District One Movement Working Together

Squirrels

Squirrels Report

7th/12th Croydon

After much preparation the 7th/12th Croydon Squirrel Drey officially launched on Saturday 1st June under the Leadership of Carly Dennington, a Beaver parent. We welcomed 6 new Squirrels some of whom were siblings of other members of the Group. They enjoyed an hour of stories and games and are looking forward to their next meeting on June 29th. On June 15th the Squirrels attended the St Paul's United Reformed Church Fete where there were lots of games for them to try. In the early stages we plan for fortnightly meetings and a membership of no more than 12. We are looking out for additional team members and also Young Leaders. Anyone interested should please contact me. We are eagerly awaiting our Squirrels getting into uniform and being invested.



Chris Dean
Group Scout Leader
7/12th Croydon Scout Group

39th Croydon

Pictured below at the 3rd meeting of the new 39th Croydon Squirrels. 1st week 3 children, 2nd week 4 children and the 3rd week 6 children so growing nicely.

The Squirrels are absolutely loving it. Well done to the two Squirrel Leaders Claire and Jo.

Saturdays 10.30- 11.30 am
The Quest, Beulah Road.



Amanda Supriya Yoga (Beaver Scout Leader)
Ron Broom (Group Scout Leader)

Beaver Report

The highlight of the last three months is undoubtedly the Beavers/Cubs joint fun day at Frylands which saw us have good weather and plenty of children enjoying themselves.

As this is the last newsletter before the summer holidays I hope everyone has a good rest although I know there are a few camps happening first which I will try to get too.

Just a reminder that as Autumn approaches, please send me a copy of your programmes for the new term

Andrew Davies

ADC Beavers

Email: beavers@croydonscouting.org.uk



Cub Report

Since the last Newsletter, the Cub and Beaver sections joined forces to bring together the Croydon District Cub and Beaver Fun Day, which was held on Saturday 11th May at Frylands Wood Scout Outdoor Centre. We had a fantastic demand for places and there were over 600 Cubs and Beavers who attended on the day. We also welcomed the 175 leaders, young leaders and adult helpers on to site, and not to mention all the Crew at Frylands, who provided the instructors for the various activities. The weather was fantastic, and everyone had a great time enjoying the 30 plus activities that had been arranged. A big thank you to all involved in organising the event. (See pictures later in report)

Sadly, I haven't seen many programmes this term, but the ones I have seen are continuing to provide an interesting and varied programme so the Cubs can obtain the Chief Scouts Silver Award. If you would like a member of the District Cub Team to present a Cub with their Silver Award, please get in touch.

Camping season is well under way and there have already been lots of camps and activities arranged both locally, and much further afield. Remember to get your NAN Form in early as well as an Activity Form if you are planning on doing Adventurous Activities on site.

Reminder: -

District Leaders Meeting - Date and venue TBC.



The Cub Scout Law:

Cub Scouts always do their best
Think of others before themselves
And do a good turn every day.

Baloo Trophy is “hopefully” taking place on Saturday 21st September at Bears Wood. Please make a note of this date as it gets booked up very early, and sadly last year, we had to let some of you down. As always, if you are able to help at this annual event, please let Mandy know. Due to the various changes taking place at District level, we haven’t been able to 100% confirm this date yet, but if we need to move it to later in the year (or early next year), we will let you know.

Finally, I would like to welcome to the Cub Team Jennie Davison and Debbie Jeffries.

Amanda Giles (ADC Cubs)

District Cub Leaders:

Peter Low, Brian Young, Marina French, Linda Ford, Jennie Davison and Debbie Jeffries.

Email: cubs@croydonscouting.org.uk

Scout Report

This always seems to be our busiest time of year where we make the most of the lighter evenings and the better weather. There have been several District events over the last few months.



Cub/Scout Linking Day - On Saturday 20th April we had our Cub and Scout Linking Day at Bears Wood. It was scheduled to run over the whole weekend but due to St Georges Day Services we reduced the event to the Saturday only. 120 young people took part, a mixture of older Cubs and younger Scouts. They learned how to do the recovery position and resuscitation, how to light fires using flint and steel, how to make an A frame chariot, how to use a hand axe and bow saw safely. They had a go at using a knife to whittle a tent peg and a Team Building base in the form of Task Master with many thanks to Beth Peters for offering to organise and run the activity.



Checkpoint Challenge - Our annual day Incident Hike competition took place in May with 22 teams taking part. The route was around 6 miles in countryside around Bears Wood and Frylands Wood, with 8 checkpoints along the way. At each checkpoint there was a challenge activity to be undertaken. Well done to 28th Croydon Scafell and 7/12th Croydon who both scored the same on the day and, therefore, share the Trophy. Our thanks to all the Leaders and Explorers that helped on the day.

Adkin Camping Challenge Weekend 28 June – 30 June 2024. At the end of June, we had our annual Adkin Camping Challenge weekend. We continued from last year’s change of format giving more emphasis on developing camping skills and leaders were again on hand to help coach the less experienced campers. By the end of the weekend all 14 teams that took part had achieved a good standard of camping, with 5 teams reaching Silver Standard and 9 teams reaching Gold Standard. The weekend also included 4 bases with activities such as Bivvi building, these were water tested, and team building activities.

Congratulations to the 28th Croydon Scafell team who successfully scored



high enough to receive the Adkin Trophy, the 7th/12th Croydon Trainspotters A team who were awarded the Roger Hicks Patrol Spirit trophy and the 1st Purley Kermits Krew team who were the most improved team. Thanks to all those leaders and explorers who helped with this event



Summer Camps – Hopefully most troops will be having a summer camp this year. We hope you all have an enjoyable camp and we look forward to hearing all about your camps on the Croydon Leaders Facebook site.

Please remember to send in your NAN form and Risk Assessment, using the latest version (Jan 2023) – downloadable from the Croydon Scouting Website.

Your Troop Programmes Once you have done your programme planning, please remember to email a copy through to scouts@croydonscouting.org.uk

Richard Carrau and Dawn Lockyer
Joint ADC Scouts
Email: scouts@croydonscouting.org.uk

Explorer Report

Crystal Palace ESU: A few weeks ago the Crystal Palace Panther Explorer unit were looking to find out more about local homelessness in Upper Norwood and invited the House the Homeless charity, of West Norwood, to come to the Den to talk to use about the issue. After a fascinating chat and discussion from Mike, from the Charity, we looked to build some homeless shelters using "stuff" we had around the den. **(See full story under special reports)**



Seahorses ESU: The Seahorses returned to the Pinewood Scout Centre, their spiritual home and birthplace, of Friday 21st June for a great evening of kayaking, led by Graham and [Tony](#). Great fun and great to be back and see how the place is developing.



Croham Valley ESU: A mid June evening in glorious sunshine saw Croham Valley Explorers learn how to play croquet under the expert eyes of coaches from St Paul's Tennis and Croquet Club in South Croydon. As the Explorers discovered croquet can be enjoyed by all ages and requires skill, timing and poise. By contrast next week it's pioneering!



And the following week Croham Valley Explorers were pioneering in the Church garden and explaining to passers by exactly what they were up to.



This is just a mere glimpse of what some of our Croydon Explorers are doing on a week to week basis.

Richard Goad (Kenley ESL)
Explorer Commissioner
Email: desc@croydonscouting.org.uk

District Safety Report

Attention Group Chair and Group Scout Leader

In 2009 we started our service of visiting all the meeting places used by Groups (both owned by the Groups or owned by others) to carry out a safety audit and report on the legal obligations required by Health and Safety Legislation. Our report gave a list of the improvements required and recommended other actions. We also recommended the appointment of a Group Safety Officer not engaged in weekly meetings. Every group was visited and received a report.

Please revisit your copy of this report and check you have carried out the actions and recommendations. If you do not have a copy of the report, please contact us below and we will provide you with a copy.

Please email: chair@croydonscouting.org.uk

Specialist in the health & safety field are still available to visit and update the recommendations (however this is only carried out by invitation only). For your information the District website contains a safety section where you will find information and documents, we recommend for use by all Groups.

Note:- Please see below a table of downloadable files available to support you and your Group / Unit.

You Shaped Scouting

The Scout Association You Shape Award makes it even easier to have a [youth shaped](#) programme, where what you do each week is decided on and led by young people's ideas. At the same time, the You Shape Award also helps young people work with volunteers to learn valuable skills for life, such as communication, teamwork and leadership. The (red) award for Squirrels has been introduced following the introduction of Squirrels into the Movement in 2021.



**Children make up 20%
of the population
and are 100% of our
future**

Safety resources are all downloadable from the District Website

www.croydonscouting.org.uk

File reference

Group Health & Safety Policy	1
Group Safety Logbook	2
Group Safety Officer Duties	3
Group_Fire_Risk_Assessment.doc	4
Duty of Care Summary	5
User Training Notes and Welcome Pack	6
Risk Assessment for Group Maintenance Activities	7
Storage of LPG	8
First Aid notice board sign	9
Asbestos in your home	10
Disabled Discrimination Act requirements	11
Electrical and Gas Installations – The Regulation requirements	12
Group Premises Audit Check List	13
Health and Safety Law for Your Scout Premises- What you should know	14
HSE Publication indg236 Electrical Inspections	15

Adult Support / Training Transformation

There is still no definitive date for the transformation to the new Scout Association system, so we are being told “business as usual” I can therefore confirm/advise the following will be happening for the rest of the year. (I am writing this in early June so by the time you read this some things may have happened).

(i). Wood badge Training Courses 2024

A decision has been made to continue to run all the training courses, as they have always been, for the rest of the year. So, a virtually complete set of courses will be put on from September until November. As soon as the diary has been finalised, I will send it out to all leaders in training and GSLs for distribution. County also hope to be able to put on the GSL/Commissioners training course, in September/October if you need this you will be contacted directly once it has been arranged.

(ii). First Aid

In September 2021 Scouting got back to some sort of “normal” and a large number of face to face First Aid courses took place in September/October 2021. In 2024 all those First Aid qualifications expire - there are in excess of 50 leaders in Croydon who will need to renew. Check your expiry date and as soon as the dates are out, I will send round in the usual way. Don't leave it until the last minute to book on as courses will get full very quickly.

(iii). Wood badge - Timescale for Completion

The timescale for completing a wood badge is 3 years, if you were on the County zoom meeting a few weeks ago you would have heard Owen mention a clampdown on this. In Croydon there are currently 7 who have already breached and 3 who will breach this year. All were contacted by me in early May, explaining the position and all their GSLs informed asking them to urgently contact their training advisor to meet and get a plan in place for completing. I am sad to say only 3 people have done this so far.

(iv). Wood badge Module Validations

As you already know all modules' leaders have completed must be validated by the transformation change over date or they will be lost! In late May I started the process of trying to get as many leader's modules validated in June/July by emailing individuals and GSLs and asking them to contact their training advisors. The aim is to get everyone totally up to date. There are 31 people within excess of 150 modules to validate, so it's a big job for the 4 training advisors. Hopefully in the September Bourne Again a lot of these validations and meetings will have turned into wood badges.

(v). Mandatory Ongoing Learning Training

This is mentioned in every newsletter but is still happening - We are still getting a large number of adults members who have breached the 5-month timescale for completing their MOGL training. It is mainly sectional assistants and executive members.

Also, renewals are not being completed on time – the individual and GSL gets an email from HQ 90, 60 and 30 days before so there is no excuse. Following the County zoom there is now zero tolerance and suspensions are now automatic.

(vi). Getting Started/Wood badges.

There has not been a meeting since the last newsletter so there are no new leaders who have completed getting started. Congratulations to the 3 leaders who have completed their wood badges since February (a full list is in this newsletter). There are currently 61 section leaders and 15 GSL/Commissioners in training, some of whom are nearly finished, and with all the validations going on in the next few months I am sure there will be a long list for the next newsletter.

(vii) Training Transformation Lead

As I have already advised to GSLs I will continue to look after wood badges and validations until the transformation but no other training matters (Including mandatory training - that is down to the individual and GSLs to deal with). I will, as always, try to assist where I can but please remember that I and the training advisors are dealing with a large number of people so bear with us.

As always, any queries please contact me.

Jon Slade (DCC Adult Support)

Email: adultsupport@croydonscouting.org.uk

Woodbadge List – March 2024 to May 2024

- Gill Payne BSL 29th Purley
- Chris Thompson CSL 28th Croydon
- Peter Devine ACSL 28th Croydon

Adult Good Service Awards

All awards recently presented or with District awaiting presentation

Award of Merit

Robert Yorkie Hiscocks 67th Croydon

Martin Grinrod 29th Croydon

Neil Rodger 29th Croydon

Russell Daws 19th Purley

Gary Melody 19th Purley

Liz O'Brien 19th Purley

Heather Peters 61st Croydon

Theo Turner 29th Purley

Barry Edrupt 5th S & A

Wendy Jones 23rd Croydon

Murray Kohn 18th Purley

Chief Scout's Commendation for Good Service

Peter Low 17th Purley

Terry Ballard 44th Croydon

Alexander Beal 25th Purley

Kay Tokarski 25th Purley

Tim Ayres 25th Purley

Michael Smaldon 1st/27th Croydon

Robert Buckley 1st Purley

Richard England 1st Purley

Elizabeth Rodgers 29th Croydon

Matthew Kasoar 1st Coulsdon

B R A V O

CROYDON SCOUTING

#skillsforlife #goodforyou



One District One Movement Working Together

District Premises Committee

As well as regular oversight and support to both District assets I am also here to advise and / or support Croydon Groups with issues relating to their own premises and especially matters regarding health & safety and your statute responsibilities.

Thank you,

Bernie Farrell

Chair – District Premises Committee

Email: premises@croydonscouting.org.uk

District Website: www.croydonscouting.org.uk

Campsites: www.croydonscouting.org.uk/campsite

Bears Wood Campsite Website (link) www.bearswoodcampsite.org.uk

Bookings - Email: bookings@bearswoodcampsite.org.uk

Pinewood Scout Centre Website (link) www.pinewoodscoutcentre.org.uk

Bookings - Email: bookings@pinewoodscoutcentre.org.uk

Bears Wood Camp Site

Summer is upon us and finally we have had some good weather, although still interspersed with showers both light and heavy; this is England after all!

Bookings have been brilliant, only the Easter weekend not used since the last edition of this newsletter, and many booking in the week from schools and DofE expeditions. During the summer holidays in August we have 3 weeks fully booked and already have 8 of the 16 weekends in the Autumn term booked.



The “crew” have continued to work hard and have completed the Traversing Wall and it is now fully up and running having had 4 booking within a fortnight of opening – so bear us in mind for an alternative activity for your section. The orienteering course is now in place with a “map-only” version working well and the desire to also put in a “compass” version in the future.

The orienteering course is now in place with a “map-only” version working well and the desire to also put in a “compass” version in the future.

We were also lucky enough to secure the services of Keller Williams Estate Agents who joined us for their Corporate Social Responsibility day. Their team of 9 worked really hard, alongside the usual Bears Wood volunteer team, dismantling the old archery range fencing and re-erecting it to make a “deer enclosure” as part of our Woodland Management Plan. This includes coppicing Hazel for use as fencing and making hurdles panels as part of our regeneration part of the plan and the monitoring of deer movement. We thank all who gave so freely of their time to help make a difference.

We are hosting the National SASU – BushScout UK – who are on site for the weekend of 6/7 July running an outdoor scouting course on the Saturday and a Tomahawk course on the Sunday. I know many of you are booked on the courses and we hope you have a successful time. If this is successful, Bush Scout UK hope

to replicate this in the future. Check them out at <https://www.bushscout.org.uk/>

The maintenance of the site continues, as you would expect, with the ongoing mowing, hedging, fencing etc. every week with our dedicated crew. But they need help and we would welcome some volunteers to join us if you have any time to spare. If this is for you please just give Martin a call on 07803296887 or drop an email to bearswood@croydonscouting.org.uk

We are also running our “Graft & Grub” adults weekend again after a successful event last year. To give you early “heads-up” it will be on Saturday & Sunday 14th & 15th September. There will be some food provided and the option to stay over BUT we will be only too happy if you can make it for one of the days or even part of a day! More information will be put out nearer the time – just keep the date free and book it in your diary now!

As usual, a HUGE thank you to all those who continue to use us and to all the people who give so freely of their time and effort to keep the site as good as it is.

Have a great and well-earned summer break.

Martin Greenwood

Chair of Bears Wood

Email: bearswood@croydonscouting.org.uk



Pinewood Scout Centre

The particularly wet Spring has well and truly seen significant progress at Pinewood, both in terms of filling the lake and giving everything in the grounds a real growth spurt that has kept us on our toes as we keep on top of and drive forward the various projects that make up the Pinewood Development Plan.

But this has also seen a similar burst in activity with Pinewood now becoming established as an amazing base for activities and camps, with Groups coming regularly from outside of District to discover us for the first time. New guests bring great reviews and feedback and vital word of mouth recommendations to others in their Districts and Counties, which generates further interest, bringing in the much needed revenue needed to keep our projects on track.



We've also shifted to making Pinewood a real community asset with Girl Guides, local Youth Clubs, Community Charity Projects and Schools all now adding to our growing customer base.

Our main projects have delivered the following updates:

The Hall - We've successfully painted out the hall, fitted new ceiling tiles and lighting and added a new carpet cleaner to our inventory enabling us to regularly deep clean the hall floor.

The Grounds - Regular tree management continues to remove potentially hazardous trees. We've swapped the location of the outdoor tomahawk and air rifle ranges, which has resulted in regular use again. Rhododendron management continues with steady removal of invasive trees. This has created clearings that are thriving with new growth. We have regular contact with Thames Water and Croydon Council to manage the existing water courses and storm drains on site to reduce risk of pollution and flooding.

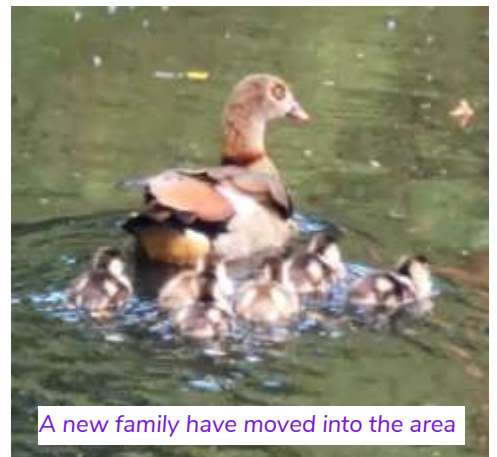
The Tree Nursery - we have over 50 indigenous broadleaf tree saplings growing in our dedicated tree nursery that will enable us to plant out in the winter. We have an additional donation of 30 x 1m soft wood conifers that have been planted to create new perimeter boundary with neighbouring properties.

The Lake - The extensive work that was started 18 months ago continues to improve the water quality and ecology of the lake. This includes removal of bankside overhanging rhododendron, continued aeration, introduction of friendly bacteria and use of lake dye to reduce potential for algal blooms. This is an ongoing effort given the previous poor condition of the lake, but continues to reduce the unpleasant layer of leaf matter that has caused problems in the past.

This Spring and early Summer has seen the lake being used on a regular basis delivering quality activities to lots of diverse groups and enriching their programmes and camps.

The future - on the back of our successful Archery GB instructors course we have now added a second course in November and an NSRA Air Rifle Instructors Course in September. We are looking to host further course options including Outdoor First Aid, Tomahawk and District, County and Region Activity Days but ideas for how to increase training at Pinewood are always welcome.

Jim Clements
For and on behalf of
Pinewood Management Committee
Email: pinewood@croydonscouting.org.uk



A new family have moved into the area

One District One Movement Working Together

PR / Community Impact (Group Support)

Fact: We are still the primary youth organisation and there are many hundreds of young people wanting to join something that is exciting and appealing. In your local communities we are already recognised and respected as providing essential lifeskills to young people – **Lets make SCOUTING their first choice.**

As the Scout Motto say's Be Prepared ! and below are five useful points that we should consider in everything we do.

1. Up your visibility

Any opportunity to raise your profile and visibility should be taken. If you are organising outdoor activities please ensure that you all wear scarves, branded hoodies or the like. Perhaps you can take Group flags or banners to be displayed even if only for a short while up the park. All of these measures will help to create greater presence.

2. Seek out cross-functional opportunities

When times are better (and they will be better), try to identify opportunities with other organisations, or working with specialists and publicise these initiatives on your Group Facebook or Group Websites. Also try to promote this using the various local media sources, Local Neighbourhood and or Resident Associations as they all have Facebook Groups or magazines (we currently have generic ads running in a couple of publications)



3. Promote yourself

Post a regular advert on these sites or magazines to promote your Group. Explain what you do and how you can help young people in your community. Tell of your contribution to the community and of the accomplishments of your members e.g. (Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards etc). Ensure your Group is registered on Google Business and sites like this.

4. Seek out advocates

Do you know who your local Councillor or MP is? If so invite them down to a Colony, Pack or Troop evening and engage with your young people to speak about their community, their concerns or worries ? If you don't, find out who they are. Build up a relationship with these local people as quite often they hear about funding or opportunities that might help the Group in the long run.

5. Ensure you are correctly branded

Ensure that your Group HQ / meeting place is correctly branded and has an encouraging and welcoming sign outside. A contact number for new enquiries is always a good idea. Update Group leaflets, and see if your local supermarket, newsagents or other community stores will allow a poster in the window or leaflets inside the store.

Any help or assistance with rebranding your HQ or Group, or suggestion as to where you can purchase branded equipment please do not hesitate to contact me.

As always, your thoughts or comments on the above would be welcomed.

Steve French

Chair – Croydon PR Team

Email: pr@croydonscouting.org.uk

District Chaplain

I am very keen to restart our programme of meetings at different faith centres so that our children can learn more about the different faiths. If your Group is interested in any particular faith community please contact me so that I can arrange this and support your Group and young people.

Please also remember that as District Chaplain I am here to support you and our young people with Pastoral care and you are welcome to make contact by email or telephone (please see my details below).

Revd. Andy Dovey
District Chaplain
Email: andy.dovey@me.com
Mobile: 07527 818816



Compass

Your records are your responsibility

The Scout Associations adult record system, Compass, contains data about each member. It has personal data, and data about your roles and training in Scouting. Much of the personal data you can change, and all of the data you can challenge if you think it is wrong. With the best will in the world, errors do creep in - and for much of the information only you will recognise the errors.

On the district web site, at <http://croydonscouting.org.uk/compass/>, you can find "Every User's Guide to Compass". Please use it to guide you through everything you may need to know to find and check your own data, and to get it corrected.

There is a second document designed for GSLs and Group Administrators who need to understand and edit other people's records. Arrangements will be made for those who are not IT-enabled. If anything is not clear please let me know.

Tony Crackett
Email: tony.crackett@ntlworld.com

Urgently Wanted

Young people (or old) but calling all aspiring artists, designers or simply those with a passion or flare and who want to be involved in a new challenge. We urgently need help and support with maintaining and updating the District website, drive the District social media platforms forward, and the quarterly editing and publication of this newsletter. We have recently carried out a 'Skills Audit' around the District because also need to identify specialists in data management, Governance, health & safety etc to support our ongoing development and to support our Scout Groups in the wider District.

Please contact us if you can help in anyway / email: pr@croydonscouting.org.uk

Please enjoy just a mere selection of reports from our Groups / Units and campsites from around the District.

~Croydon Scouting taking every opportunity to provide skills for life~

Pinewood Scout Centre

Great to host another enthusiastic Explorer Unit from neighbouring Bromley.

Lots of excellent teamwork and fun in the sun and always great to build awareness of Pinewood to new Groups & Units from across the Region.

For all enquiries for the Pinewood Scout Centre please drop us a message on:

Email: bookings@pinewoodscoutcentre.org.uk



7 / 12th Beaver Colony

On June 7th the amazing Beavers of the 7th12th Croydon went for a Nature walk on Croham Hurst. Firstly we welcomed three new Beavers, they were really excited to go on their first little adventure. Every Beaver was equipped with a pencil and two pieces of paper, one for the Bug Hunt and one for the Tree Bingo. The adults volunteers that helped and the children were all very enthusiastic and found many of the insects and different trees. The walk ended with a very loud Goodbye Beavers!

Gabi Covacci



District Beaver & Cub Fun Day - Photos



Over 600 Beavers and Cubs attended the Fun Day at Frylands Wood this year. We welcomed 175 Leaders and adults and not forgetting the Frylands Wood crew and instructors involved in putting this special event on.



Just to give you an idea of numbers please see a couple of drone pictures from the event.



10th Croydon Cub Scouts

On the weekend of 31st May to 2nd June the 10th Croydon Cubs had a weekend camp at Bears Wood. The Cubs wanted to do something for the site so they made bird boxes thus gaining their DIY badge. Other activities from the weekend were the zipline and the new traversing wall as well as the melting marshmallows over open fires ready for chocolate digestive biscuits. Everyone had a great time gaining many badges as well as a couple of Silver Awards from the Weekend.

Debbie Jeffries
(Cub Scout Leader)



**‘Scouting offers
skills for life’**

Crystal Palace (Panthers) ESU



In 2024 the Crystal Palace Panther Explorer unit were looking to find out more about local homelessness in Upper Norwood and invited the House the Homeless charity, of West Norwood, to come to the Den to talk to use about the issue. After a fascinating chat and discussion from Mike, from the Charity, we looked to build some homeless shelters using "stuff" we had around the den.



Would we dare to try out these shelters in the Crystal Palace area?

A week later we received a message from the Madina Salam Scouts, that we had visited last year. A devastating fire had ripped through one of their Scouts housing compounds leaving the house destroyed and the family homeless, with all their belongings destroyed or burned. Lamin Kandeh was one of the youngest scouts that had welcomed us to the Gambia in 2023 and him and his family were in desperate need of help. Could we help?

The Crystal Palace Panthers said yes and suggested a sponsored sleep out at the Gipsy Hill Station Garden to raise funds, not just for Lamin and his family but also for the House the Homeless charity. The Panthers rallied the 1st Crystal Palace Group. We were going to need help on the ground in Gambia if we were going to be able to look provide support. We contacted the Gunjur Project, who we had stayed with and fundraised the year before and they came to the rescue to see what they could do to help. 1st Crystal Palace put the call out for donations and the Panthers arranged for a sponsored sleepout.

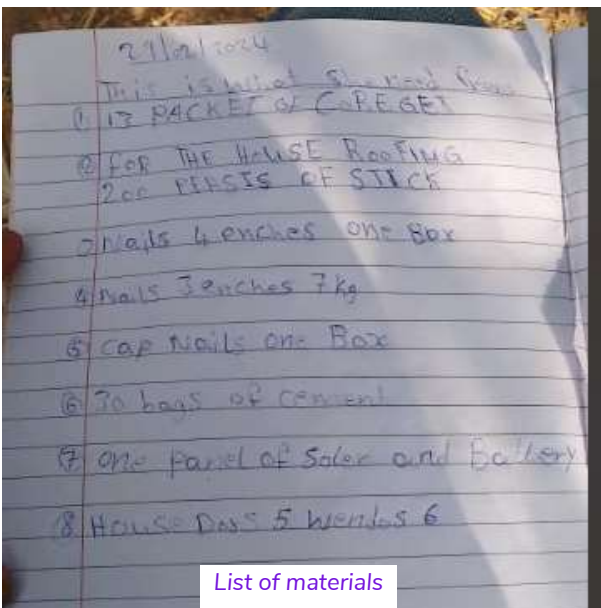
The Gunjur Project has a Dutch team staying with them, at the time, who had followed the Panthers out there on the trip the previous year and thought it was an excellent idea to join forces with the Panther unit to try and help a member of our scouting family. They had taken boxes of clothes out to Gambia, from the Netherlands, and immediately offered to donate them to Lamin and his family. Five boxes of clothes were taken by the Gunjur Project team who would help the Madina Scouts see what they could do to help. The 1st Crystal Palace Group raised over £450 and the Panthers raised a further £700 split between the House the Homeless and for the rebuild. The Explorers also voted to donate a further £300 to help with the rebuild. This would



The devastation after the fire

give the Gambians a head start in looking to rebuild the house. The Dutch group were so taken aback by the Crystal Palace donations and the fact that we were trying to help from London that they offered to match the donations. This meant that we had sufficient materials to commence the rebuild. The Gunjur Project provided staff and transport for materials with the Madina Scouts and the local community providing the labour for the rebuild. We had a plan. We had the people to do the work and time was limited due to the fast approaching Ramadan, which would mean that work would not be able to be carried out.

The local community got right on it and cleared the debris away and got building, firstly making the concrete blocks and lintels and removing the fire damaged materials. The house was slowly being rebuilt. The poles for the roof were obtained and the craftsmen plied their trade to rebuild the housing compound.



List of materials





This multinational co-ordination was only possible because we are part of the World Scouting family. The Panthers immediately wanted to help, so they raised the money. We reached out to the Gunjur Project who told the Dutch Group who had been told stories of when the Panthers came to Gambia the previous year. They wanted to help. 3 Nations working together to help one family rebuild their home. Yes, the inside will need replastering and other works done but the house is habitable, and the family were able to return, Scouting at its best.

But how did the Panthers raise their money for Lamin and the House the Homeless Charity? They decide to sleep outside for a night at the Friends of Gipsy Hill Station Garden, this is what happened on.....



The date was pencilled in for the 19th April, the call for sponsorship had been made. We decided to follow the guidance for the Sleep Out for Shelter, whereby we would look to be outdoors for a night in the city. We chose the Friends of Gipsy Hill Station Garden, with Southern Rail kindly offering the use of the station toilet facilities.

The garden was secure but visible.

We decided not to use tents but to provide gazebos, just in case it rained. We would have the gardens brazier for warmth and a good stock of firewood. We opted to take the generator with us and have a movie night with the projector, and to take the dart board so we could have a game. 6 brave explorers and 3 leaders took to the garden. It was very cold and down to 3 degrees but as all good Scouts are, we were well prepared, we had sufficient layers to keep the cold off. We had activities and food. It was a clear night, and the moon was stunning.



In the morning with a sausage and egg butty to get us going we packed up and returned home knowing that the people who had sponsored us had provided funds to help rebuild Lamin's home and to provide a donation to the West Norwood House the Homeless charity.



We raised and donated nearly £1000 to help a local charity and to help our Gambian friends.



Croham Valley ESU

Croham Valley Explorers and Leaders having fun on the river Thames recently rowing the historic "Jubilant"

Sue Eardly
Asst Explorer Leader
Croham Valley ESU



Croham Valley Explorers are custodians of a trigonometrical point on a hill near Markbeech in Kent. One evening in June they travelled there to check on its condition and to give it two coats of masonry paint.

The Unit and their Venture Scout predecessors at CVJU have looked after this triangulation station more commonly known as a trig point for more than 30 years. From this hilltop there are amazing views over the High Weald. The sign on the side of the trig point is the Kentish horse.

Christopher Dean
Explorer Scout Leader
Croham Valley ESU



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19th Purley (Riddlesdown) Scout Group

The 19th Purley set off for our annual camp on Saturday 25th May for 4 nights to Cudham Shaw campsite. There were 41 young people and 13 volunteers attending. The day before we had an army of parent helpers take all the equipment down so we could head straight there on the Saturday morning to meet all the children. Our cubs and scouts camped for 4 nights and our beavers arrived on the Sunday for 2 nights. For most of our beavers this was their first camp and for some their first ever sleepover. We also had some cubs and scouts whose first camp it was. The parents had their usual worries so were happy to receive the regular updates on our WhatsApp group and many couldn't believe they stayed and the fussy eaters tried new things. Our activities included archery, tomahawks, cave bus and grass sledging. Our weather was a lot kinder than was forecast and on the day we were leaving the sun was shining making the strike down much easier. Again, we had a team of parents come to site to help and back to the hut to put away meaning we got home at a reasonable time to decamp!

As I said to the parents after, very often our worries are just that, are worries and not our children's. One couple have never spent time away from their children in 11 years so were eternally grateful and clearly counting down the days until the next one!

Their behaviour throughout was exemplary and a good time was had by all.



Liz O'Brien
Group Scout Leader
19th Purley Scout Group

7th Purley Cub Camp

Over the last weekend in May the 7th Purley Cubs went to camp at Broadstone Warren - 400 acres of adventure situated in the heart of Ashdown Forest. This is the first time we have visited Broadstone Warren for our Cub camp.

23 Cubs and two young leaders joined the adult Leadership team for 3 fun filled days despite the mud due to the rather damp weather. The camp programme however had a full itinerary of exciting activities including crate stacking, wall climbing, archery, pioneering, shelter building and go karts. The tunnel activity was a bit hit too.

One afternoon the Cubs prepared and cooked meals for all of us, helping them to tick off elements off their Chef badge. Sausages, mash and veg, along with meringues cream and fruit. It was a delicious and well cooked meal. To facilitate this with such a large number we designed a rota so that each Cub could contribute to each course. The most helpful Cubs were rewarded with being able to serve to the group, which they considered a great responsibility! We had planned to cook it outside on an alter fire but the weather forced us to change to indoor cooking instead.

All in all a great and memorable experience for all

Josie Goddard
Section Team Leader (Akela)



7/12th Croydon Scouts

Friday 7th June – we took 30 Scouts from the 7th/12th Croydon Scout Group to the water at Beckenham Place Park to do paddleboarding. For most it was their first time and not surprisingly they spent a fair bit of time in the water! Nevertheless, everyone seemed to have enjoyed the evening immensely and of course now want to go back again.

Christopher Dean
Group Scout Leader
7/12th Croydon Scout Group



**‘Scouting offers
skills for life’**

44th Croydon Air Scout Group

The Big Help Out - Lend a Hand - The 44th were at Grangewood Park on Saturday 8th June litter picking, clearing the sunken garden, clearing the mosaic, sweeping steps and even ending up with a taster session on the bowls green. Fab volunteering from everyone that came along. Thanks go to the young people who brought their parents!



Pat Stannard
Group Scout Leader
44th Croydon Air Scout Group

~Croydon Scouting bringing communities together~

7/12th Croydon Cub Scouts

7/12th Croydon Cub Scouts doing some good for the community at Park Hill Park Walled Garden.

James Arthur-William Cork (Cub Scout Leader)



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Croydon PR Team (Croydon YOU Challenge Day)

Around 100 young people participated in the annual YOU Croydon Challenge on Sunday 2 June 2024, organised by YOU (Youth Organisations in Uniform) Croydon. The event was superbly hosted at Royal Russell School (CCF) and the weather was sunny and very warm. Young people from Croydon Units of the Army Cadets, Fire Cadets, Girl Guiding, Scouting, Sea Cadets, Volunteer Police Cadets and Royal Russell (CCF) took part in various challenges run by each of the organisations present. At the end of the day the School prepared and served a BBQ to all everyone present.



Visitors during the day included the Civic Mayor of Croydon Cllr. Kola Agboola, and Cllr. Tony Pearson Croydon Council's Armed Forces Champion, as well as Debbie Wilkinson YOU London Coordinator, Col. Hugh Purcell (Chair) of YOU London and Col. Ray Wilkinson (Rep) Deputy Lieutenant for Croydon. The day ended with presentations of YOU London pin badges by Col. Hugh Purcell.



Our thanks to 30th Purley (Masjid) Scout Group who represented the District at this annual event. Thanks also go to our Scout County (GLSW) for agreeing to



provide their Mobile Climbing Wall for the event.



YOU LONDON

<https://www.youlondon.org.uk/>

'YOU' London is a unique partnership of 11 experienced uniformed youth organisations in London and is jointly supported by the Reserve Forces & Cadets Association for Greater London, the Mayor of London and the Greater London Lieutenancy. Croydon Scouting has proudly been an active member of Project 'YOU' and then 'YOU' London since they were started over 15 years ago.

Through our association with YOU London this enables us to benefit from certain schemes and awards not normally open to Scouting. BTEC Level 2 Diploma in Teamwork & Personal Development in the Community (TPD) this award is open to 16 plus Explorer Scouts. The Annual DL Award Scheme Certificate. This is open to our top Explorer Scouts (min 15 yrs.) and they would be nominated by their Leadership team. This is a high-profile award presented by the Mayor of Croydon and the Representative Deputy Lieutenant in the Borough.

We also benefit from attendance at the Troop the Colour in June every year. In 2024 we have members from our Scout County including Scouts and Explorers from Croydon in the YOU London Youth Enclosure at the Colonels Review of the Troops on Saturday 8th June. There were members from GLMW at the Kings Parade on 15th June.



Thank you for reading our April 2024 edition of our District Newsletter. We are sure you will see that our youth members in Croydon are offered many exciting and challenging opportunities to gain important skills for life as well as reflecting on social and world matters and contributing to a better society.

On behalf of Croydon Scouting we thank you for your continued support.



**~Croydon Scouting
providing skills for life~**

**~Croydon Scouting bringing
communities together~**



**One District
One Movement
One World
#skillsforlife**



**Croydon Scouting helping young people to achieve their dreams
#croydonscouting #highachievers #skillsforlife**



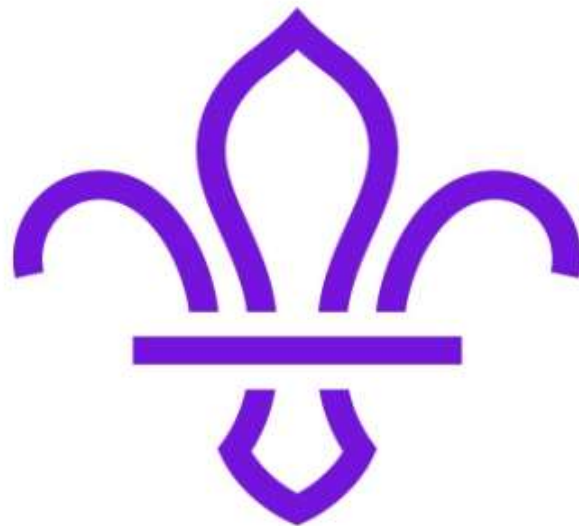
District Website:
www.croydonscouting.org.uk

County Website:
www.glsWSCouts.org.uk

Headquarters Website:
www.scouts.org.uk

Croydon Scouting provides #skillsforlife

#skillsforlife



Scouts

Croydon Scouting