



**WIMBLEDON and WANDLE**  
**DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL**

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
*for the year*

**MAY 2016 – JUNE 2017**



**Annual General Meeting  
of the  
Wimbledon and Wandle District Scout Council**

8:00pm on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June, 2017  
1<sup>st</sup> Lower Morden Headquarters, Bow Lane Scout Centre,  
off Lower Morden Lane, Morden SM4 4SJ

**AGENDA**

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Chairman's welcome and introductions.
3. Approval of Minutes of AGM on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2016.
4. Report of the District Executive Committee.
5. Approval of the Accounts for the period ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016.
6. District Commissioner.
7. To approve the District Commissioner's nomination for District Chairman and nominated members of the District Executive Committee
8. Election of officers:  
District Secretary  
District Treasurer  
District Executive Committee x 4
9. To elect a representative to the County Executive.
10. Appointment of Independent Examiner.
11. County Commissioner
12. Presentations.

Followed by refreshments and light buffet.

**Wimbledon and Wandle District Scout Council**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
**Held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2016**  
**At 19<sup>th</sup> Wimbledon Headquarters**

The meeting opened with a prayer led by the District President, Jack Atkins in which he asked those present to remember those in Scouting in the District who have passed away in the last 12 months – Peter Connellan, Jean Prior, Cliff Condon, Eric Hayward, Bill Cannon, Ted Mayhew. □ After a long association with our District Jack Atkins is standing down as our President. Andy Edmonds thanked Jack for his support for our District. Andrew Edmonds welcomed all present and introduced Theresa Jeffrey, County Commissioner to our AGM.

**2. Apology for absence** received from Betty Cronk.

**3. Approval of Minutes of AGM 6<sup>th</sup> May 2015.** □

Proposer - Dave Christmas, Seconder - Jim Anning. Approved as a true record.

**4. Report of the District Executive Committee**

Chairman's Report accepted as circulated. He thanked the Committee, and members of the sub Committees for their efforts and to Neil McLauchlan and Muriel Treagust for collating and printing of the Annual Report. He paid particular thanks to retirees Peter Newman, Keith Angliss and Joan Burgess.

The Chairman mentioned the flat at Kenneth Black Hall. This will be let at the end of this month, unfurnished. He thanked Peter Treagust, Colin Stubbs, David Williams, Richard Mainwaring and Robert Brumwell for their help and assistance over the last six years. He went through the history of the previous occupiers of the flat, then living rent free and that legal advice in 2010 was that if handled wrongly, we stood to lose up to £130,600! Instead, we managed to secure an income that has covered expenditure on the flat and having now paid £23,500 in 2016 to further modernise the flat, the return over the next 10 years could be £190,000 plus inflation!

## **5. Treasurer's Report & Approval of the Accounts for the period ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015**

Report presented by Richard Marus who informed those present that this report had already been approved by the Executive Committee at their last meeting. A summary of the report was circulated for this meeting and he went through various points. Richard pointed out that he is not a signatory on all District Accounts. This is a requirement which must be put in place. He also thanked Andrew Edmonds and Muriel Treagust for the assistance given to him over collating the Census payment. Richard thanked Keith Angliss for all the help and support given to him over this past year.

Proposer - Vicky Tullett □ Seconder - Clive Tullett. □ Accounts were adopted by show of hands.

## **6. District Commissioner**

Joe added the following, in addition to his written report: □ “First of all I should like to express my thanks to those many adults, 274 leaders and numerous adult helpers, who make Scouting possible in our district. Those people, whatever role they play, whose efforts come rain or shine, come programme changes or accounts to compile, enable over fourteen hundred Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers to enjoy their Scouting and by that very fact to become people who are better able to meet life's many challenges.

As I said last year, although, quite properly, District AGMs are a time to thank people for their hard work and to celebrate the successes that we have, sometimes we need to cast a critical eye at our District and ask ourselves are we really successful? And I went on to say that there are essentially two measures of success, quantity and quality. I ended by saying that there was a gauntlet for us to pick up, to grow Scouting in Merton.

Using those two criteria, I believe that we can justifiably say that we have had a successful year:

In terms of Quality, just look at the quality people that we have in all roles across the District, from the mum who makes squash for the Beavers, through committed section leaders to the GSLs and Executive members who can deliver an HQ like this: from the guy who helps out once a month to the ADC who organises quality programme support activities. And each person trained to within an inch of their lives!

Look at the number of nights away provided across all groups and

all sections, look at the number of Queen's Scouts (16 this year) ...  
The list goes on ...

We know that quantity derives from quality and our best measure of that is the Census. So what were the outcomes there? Beavers up 5%, Cubs up 12%, Scouts up an amazing 17%. Indeed, there were two groups that grew their membership by a third. Fantastic!

I am not saying that we're perfect, but I am saying that 2015 was a good year for us and that we should stop for a moment and pat ourselves on the back, as we continue growing the Movement during 2016, through the quality of what we do.

It will not have escaped your notice that this is my last AGM as District Commissioner; this being my very last day in the job, virtually seven years to the day that a certain Mr. Newbery stitched me up! I should like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the many people who have made this job so enjoyable and worthwhile, particularly those people with whom I have had the most dealings as DC: our Key Managers, Our District Team and our Executive, all of who do a marvelous job for our scouts. But also my many friends at my Alma Mater, the 11<sup>th</sup> Mitcham, and the many leaders that I've had the honour to get to know over the last 16 years.

At times like this one would like to name the many people that one would like to thank, but inevitably, someone would be missed, and that would be unforgiveable. Nevertheless, it would be remiss of me not to mention two men who have had an indelible effect on my life as a scout leader, since they've known me in the role since day one. Both of them have taught me what it is to be a scout, in the widest sense, and what it is to be a scout leader, I have been guided by them throughout my career as a leader, learning from their advice and, when it was needed, their criticism. For example, I now know how to fry bacon in sub-zero temperatures when you've not got time to build a wood fire (and gas doesn't cut it I'm afraid). And for that I should like to thank Mr. Dave Bixby and Mr. Paul Atkins!

Thank you to the many, many people who have sent their best wishes for my new role; it has been an immense honour and privilege to have served you as your District Commissioner and I can only hope that in some way I have served you as you would have wished."

## **7. To Approve the County Commissioner's nomination for District Chairman.**

Theresa Jeffrey nominated Andy Edmonds to continue as our District Chairman.

Ex Officio Officer - Neil McLauchlan (Explorer Scouts Representative).

Nominated members: Jean Gould, Brian Whalebone (plus 2 for new DC to nominate after appointment). All accepted by show of hands.

## **8. Election of Officers**

District Secretary – Muriel Treagust □ District Treasurer – Richard Marus □ 18-25 Representative – Representative still to be found □ District Executive Members – Alan Green, Peter Treagust, Robert Brumwell and Jim Anning The above were proposed by Dave Gould □ Seconded by Bob Prescott. □ All agreed by vote.

## **9. To Elect a Representative to the County Executive**

Andy Edmonds volunteered to be our Representative. Proposed by Paul Atkins □ Secunder by Neil McLauchlan

## **10. Appointment of Independent Examiner**

Vacancy. Suggestions were asked for and pointed out that a financial contribution could be made if necessary.

## **11. County Commissioner**

Theresa Jeffrey thanked Joe for everything he has done for our District. He had dealt with different challenges and done sterling work for us. A lot going on every night (and day) at the grass roots. Quality programmes, and County numbers up. She stated that our new District Commissioner should be known within the next few days.

In closing she again thanked Joe for his support to the District.

## **12. Presentations of Awards**

Dave Bixby – Silver Wolf. □ 30 year's Service - Clive Tullett

Presentations also given to the following who are "retiring" □ Jack Atkins, President of our District for many years. □ Ted Aslett our Auditor for the past 6/7 years in appreciation of his service to the District. □ Joan Burgess for all she has given to our District – Joan unable to attend but Peter Newman will hand over her gift to her. □ Peter Newman who has been a Scout leader, ADC, District

Chairman, Chairman of the Appointments Committee. □ Keith Angliss – ex Leader, District Chairman, Financial Guru and Executive Member for many years.

In closing Joe was again thanked and given a gift as a show of our appreciation for the time he has been our DC.

There being no further business Andy closed the meeting by thanking everyone for attending and also the SAS for providing the refreshments and to the 19<sup>th</sup> Wimbledon for the use of their Headquarters.

The meeting closed at 20.47.

## **Chairman's Report May 2016 – May 2017: Andy Edmonds**

Let me start my Report (at the risk of offending anyone I don't name); by saying "thank you" to all who served on the District Executive Committee:

Richard Marus in his second year as Treasurer, who has been ably guided and assisted by Keith Angliss in preparing the Annual Accounts. I am sad to report that due to pressure of work, Richard indicated in January that he is not willing to continue as Treasurer after this AGM. Richard has provided a couple of year's continuity in a role that has seen six changes in eight years! Quite where we go from here I do not know. We are making an attempt to get a better idea of the issues. A similar exercise five years ago, didn't achieve any material changes and as I have said before, without a Treasurer there can be no District!

Keith Angliss (again!), who agreed to step into the role of our Examiner, thank you for your essential and invaluable support!

To our Secretary, Muriel Treagust for her hard work in trying to make sense of my ramblings at Exec meetings and then writing up the Minutes. Also for the monumental task of completing the Annual Census. As Appointments Secretary; for those endless hours updating Compass, co-ordinating the Appointment's process and arranging DBS enquires.

To Jean Gould in her first year as Chair and again to Muriel Treagust; who have run the Appointments Sub Committee with skill and efficiency.

To Alan Green and his team for their continued work at Morden Hall DHQ. We are now starting to see the benefits; in that usage has increased from 12 activities in 2010 to 121 last year! We have sufficient Reserves to allow for completion of the 6 Year Renovation Plan in 2018. A suggestion that we now consider charging for District use of DHQ, was rejected, as the Executive is of the opinion that this would disproportionately affect smaller Groups. Less than 10% of our annual income is allocated for rent, bills and upkeep of the building and grounds.



Jim Anning has decided to stand down from the Executive. I have known Jim since he was a Scout Leader at the 36<sup>th</sup> Mitcham and indeed my first camp as an adult. Jim has served Scouting in a number of capacities and his experience and wise counsel will be sorely missed.

To Brian Whalebone as Store Manager and Quartermaster, to Lesley Bixby as Badge Secretary, Awards Co-ordinator and “Links” Editor; and to Paul Atkins for making our web site the font of information it remains.

To Rob Brumwell and Peter Treagust for overseeing our main source of income; being the Hall, Flat and Garages at Kenneth Black Hall. Rob in particular has been very busy again over the last year, overseeing the tenants who stayed for a year and the recent search for new tenants. Unforeseen in previous surveys; probably because the property has never been used by 3 tenants who insist on heating the property in the winter (!), was the question of damp from condensation. This combined with ongoing issues related to the concrete gutters. A survey was commissioned and plan of works have taken place to prevent recurrence in future winters. Whilst the structure of the building; in particular the concrete gutters, are likely to continue to require expenditure; as far as we are able to foresee, existing reserves should look after our needs for the final 9 years of the Bridge Club’s long term Lease.

To the SAS who help out at District events and for the catering at our AGM.

A final “thank you” on behalf of us all to Deborah; our District Commissioner, who has stepped up to the role vacated last year by Joe Rogerson.

Throughout the year, I have tried to keep everyone abreast of developments through my Reports in “Links” and our over-riding priority remains supporting the District via the District Development Plan. Following 2016 rent increases for the Bridge Club and the flat, it is expected that the DDP can be supported to the extent of £30,000 for each of the next 4 years.

In light of the new priorities agreed under the DDP, we will no longer be supporting Membership Fees for Group Growth. Commitments for 2017 Census (just gone) have been honoured, but Groups will be responsible for paying full National, County and any District Levy from 2018 (next year's) Census and beyond.

Those who have read "Links" or my Annual Reports will be aware of the Journey we have been on over the seven years I have been District Chairman. A role I have served longer than any other Chairman since the District was formed and seen out one DC, one County Commissioner, two County Chairman, two Prime Ministers (maybe a third by the time the AGM happens!) and six Treasurers!

I have talked about progressing from the "Forming" stage, through the "Norming" stage and looking forward to the "Storming" stage. As I have not been asked to play any part in planning, there can be no "Storming" for me. After a lot of thought and deliberation I informed the DC in January that I was unwilling to serve beyond this AGM.

I whole heartedly thank those that have helped create our current success and build the new "Norm". I have enjoyed working with everyone. We have all worked quietly behind the scenes and I am grateful to those few individuals who have been in touch and maybe our Contribution is not grossly undervalued?

I was told by the new DC that "I was difficult to get money from"! If that means the Executives that I have led, expected to see a reasoned plan, with agreed action points and outcomes that can then be discussed, evaluated year later, then "yes" I have been "difficult" and don't apologise for being so! To my mind, and indeed that of the Law, it is the role of Charity Trustees to be "Critical Friends" and it is important and vital that this continues.

The District is blessed with a financial "oasis" and as a Trustees, our priority and drive has been to ensure that these funds are allocated in a way that best provides for the needs of (and develops) young people in LB Merton. More is explained about the rationale behind our Reserves Policy in the accompanying Financial Report for 2016.

All that we do and try to do is only possible by the support of unpaid volunteer adults who wear a uniform and others that don't. Your contribution is hereby saluted and each and every one is thanked for your hard work.

Long may it continue, (I will be watching)!

## **District Commissioner's Report May 2016 – May 2017: Deborah Carter**

First thank you to everyone for their support and advice as I have embarked on my role as DC, I have been impressed and humbled by the amount of work by so many across the District that goes on so quietly behind the scenes.

Compass is now part of all our lives and despite its difficult beginnings it is now working and allowing us all to keep our training records up to date. Compass now issues reminders for when DBS's become due for renewal which should make all our lives easier. But reminders are only effective if the contact details provided are correct and inevitably we will have a period whilst we uncover errors that have so far gone unnoticed. As a District, we are still getting used to Compass and need to learn how to get the best out of it, whilst we do we are very lucky to have Muriel Treagust and Alison Edwards to keep us on track.

The census provided us with mixed news this year and thank you for the efforts of all concerned, not least Muriel who pulled it all together. Numbers of young people 6-14 increased, particularly in the cub's section. Numbers of those in the Explorer section were down at the time of the census partly due to what we hope is the temporary closure of one Unit. However, we officially opened Fleet 612 at the beginning of the year and numbers are already increasing. But we need to make sure that we help more children benefit from the Big Adventure that is Scouting. Last year Alan Green and Dave Christmas together with others from the District organised a very successful Open Weekend at DHQ, more recently Dave and Lesley Bixby co-ordinated another Scouting demonstration at the Wimbledon Windmill Event, these events raise our profile in the Community and can only help to encourage more to join us.

The District now has a Youth Commissioner in place and as they get to grips with their role we will be able to more confidently ensure that we continue to appeal to the young and more importantly involve them in growing our Movement, encouraging them to take active roles in many areas across the District.

The last year has seen us continue to provide skills training to both leaders and scouts together with mandatory safety training of adults. We have a very well delivered wood badge training scheme. We still have more Young Leaders who are graduating from the Young Leader training course run 2 years ago. Last year we had a wide variety of programme support activities all of which have been of great benefit to our scouts. I would like to record my thanks to the many adults and Young Leaders, too numerous to mention who have both provided and attended. It is these people and their dedication and commitment that makes us the successful vibrant District that we are.

The work of the Executive continues to provide immense support to the District and their efforts mean that we remain in the very enviable position of being able to provide money to help Scouting where it is needed, at the grass roots. Our DHQ is a wonderful asset and allows many groups without outside space of their own to practise their outdoor skills whether its tent pitching or pioneering or simply having a BBQ and games evening. Following the Development Plan put in place whilst Joe was DC we have continued to fund programme enhancement activities and skills training.

There are still challenges to face. We operate in a challenging world. We have more demands on our time than ever before but as District we are lucky as we have so many adults and Young Leaders who are prepared to give up so much of their time for the benefit of our young members.

## ADC Beavers Report May 2016 – May 2017: John Tweedley

Since the A.G.M last year we had 7 Colonies attend the District Sports Day, although the weather was not as nice as it could have been the Beavers did enjoy themselves. Thanks go out to the leaders who put on an event from their Colony for the Beavers to participate in.

**On July 2<sup>nd</sup> we took 142 Beavers 38 Leaders 6 Young Leaders and 9 Adult helpers to Legoland to celebrate 30 years of Beavers.** Although it sent my heart rate up when the night before I thought I had not ordered enough tickets for all who were going? After sitting down with my wife and going over the numbers it then came to pass that we had some free tickets, and some Beavers were Merlin members meaning that we had just enough. It was, I think, a great day out although Legoland was busy and we did have to queue up for quite a long time for some rides.

At the end of September we held our last 30 years of Beavers event. We had **our own fun day**, at the 1<sup>st</sup> Lower Morden Scout Hall. Some 100 Beavers came along to join in the fun with several inflatables, ride on cars and other games. Thanks to Jane Ginty who put me in touch with a man with a van full of inflatables, also to the District Beaver Leaders and to Nicky Hayward and Jenny Davis. We all had three very, very large birthday cakes so large that we had to give some of the cake to the parents who came to pick up the Beavers. We had our annual Beaver Leaders Meal in January at the George in Morden, and a very good evening that was.

On the 26<sup>th</sup> February 2017 we held our second **International Badge Day** for the over 7's. I must admit I had kittens when three days before Linda Vaudrey e-mailed me to say that there will be 85 beavers coming {I had only ordered 50 badges} but a quick call to Lesley and that issue was resolved. Many thanks to all the Leaders, young leaders and helpers who came along to give the Beavers help at the bases, at least 3 per table. I would also like to point out how very well all the Beavers behaved, considering how many we had in the hall, and how much little mess was left on the floor.

On the 19<sup>th</sup> March we held our annual District Beaver Bike and Scooter Ride. It was at the same venue as last year, Ravesbury Park

opposite D.H.Q. This seems to be a good venue as the park is like a ghost town. Thanks go to the District Leaders who entertained the Beavers who were not riding in the first or second session, and to Dave Christmas who once again took the Beavers through the Cyclist Activity Badge. We raised £187.50 on the day for the **Mayor of Merton's** chosen charity **Age U.K. Merton** and the **Avanti Club-Mental Health** well done again to the Beavers of Wimbledon and Wandle.

We are taking the District Beavers to the **Beaver and Cub Fun Day** at Gilwell Park on the 10<sup>th</sup> June. This is normally a very full on day with most Beaver and Leaders sleeping on the way home.

Finally my thanks go out to Tracy Sterlini, Julia Doolan and Clare Tweedley my D.B.S.L's, for their undying support to me over the past year. Special thanks also to Linda Vaudrey my scribe at our meetings getting all the minutes out, signing in Beavers at our events, and keeping me in check {although she does keep going off to the other side of the world} is it something I say to you Linda?

Also, a very special thanks to the **S.A.S.** especially to **Jean and Rob Brumwell** who turn up at all our events their help is invaluable.

Lastly a big thanks to all Beaver Leaders, Assistants, Helpers, Young Leaders and parents who without their help Colonies would not run, and Beavers would not be able to be part of this great **Family of Scouting.**

## **ADC Cubs Report May 2016 – May 2017: Michèle McNamara**

Thanks to all the leaders for their involvement with the cubs this year helping them to enjoy many activities and gain many badges. As usual I must comment that some packs never support any district activities, if we aren't putting on activities/events that your cubs would be interested in please come to the CSL meetings and let us have your ideas. I do however suspect that many cubs within the district are completely unaware of just what is on offer and this is a great pity.

In May we held an adventure day for the older cubs at Frylands Wood campsite, 43 cubs attended which is a very low turnout but they all had a great day and thanks to the leaders involved in this event for making it happen. Many thanks to Martin & Mia for organising this.

We followed this with the 7-a-side football competition, which this year at the last minute we had to hold at Goals in Raynes Park. Unfortunately, one day before we were due to hold the competition at Raynes Park High School they informed us that Public Health England had closed the site due to a break out of a virus and the school needed a deep clean! We were told we could go ahead using the outside facilities but with no toilets available so we declined. We were very fortunate that Andrew Hayward managed to talk to the people at Goals and got us a very good deal and the event went on. It was certainly a bit different from normal and I am still waiting for the leaders to tell me what they want to do this year but we had new winners in the 1<sup>st</sup> Wimbledon pack, with the 22<sup>nd</sup> Wimbledon as runners up, 3<sup>rd</sup> Mitcham & 5<sup>th</sup> Morden were in joint 3<sup>rd</sup> place. 12 teams in total took part and we were blessed with wonderful weather. Special thanks to all those adults who agreed to referee (a thankless task) and to our first aider, Alison Edwards, not too many casualties this year.

In June as part of our celebrations for 100 years of cub scouting we took 116 cubs from 8 packs to Walton Firs for a weekend camp, we were fairly lucky with the weather although it did decide to rain just as we were due to pack up on the Sunday. They took part in lots of activities and had a great campfire courtesy of Michael Mayhew & Mark Steed, despite the fact that someone stole most of the wood



from the fire just before we were due to light it. Thanks especially to Mike Mayhew for checking all my paperwork and coming up with so much help, for Graham Fairclough for visiting on the Saturday and helping to get the fire set for the evening and of course to all the leaders present on site for running various activities and feeding and looking after the cubs so well. Thanks also to the district for the generous budget they allocated to us for the 100 years celebration, this meant we were able to offer this at a reduced rate and offer transport to the site as well.

In July 199 cubs descended on the paintballing site at near Cobham, this was the final part of our celebration for the cubs for the centenary. It was a really hot day but this didn't seem to deter them from running around and enjoying the event. Lots of drinks were consumed and they all enjoyed the burgers at lunch time, thanks to Graham for organising this, seems they want to do it again!

Our final event of the year for the cubs was the Scooterthon held at Carshalton, unfortunately the turnout was quite low which is a shame because we could have accommodated many more teams and those that came said they had had a really good time. Congratulations to the 1<sup>st</sup> Lower Morden for winning the event and special thanks to Louise Preedy for booking the venue and Graham for sorting out all the 'stuff' needed to run this.

On December 13<sup>th</sup> the leaders from the district were invited to celebrate the centenary by coming to Frankie & Benny's in Colliers Wood for a meal, as it was so near Christmas a lot of people were otherwise occupied with works does etc., so only 12 leaders were able to make it.

In January we held our usual district badge day (scientist badge this year) but this time at a new venue, 19<sup>th</sup> Wimbledon. 196 cubs came to the day and 13 packs were represented. They had a lot of different bases to visit and learn about scientific facts, the messy bases seemed very popular, bridge building meant you could sneak a crafty marshmallow (and I did!) but all the bases seemed to be equally popular and informative. It had been a bit hit and miss right up until the day whether we would have enough leaders/adults to run bases so that all the cubs were continually

occupied but it seemed to work out on the day. Thanks to everyone who took part.

Our final event of the year was the chess competition also held at the 19<sup>th</sup> HQ and organised and run by Mark Steed, many thanks to him. Winners were the 22<sup>nd</sup>, with the 1<sup>st</sup> Wimbledon as runners up.

Unfortunately this year saw Martin Neal & Mia Patterson resigning their roles as DCSL's due to work commitments they were unable to give the time needed to the district and reluctantly decided that they would have to resign. They have both of course been instrumental in helping at many of the events for a great number of years in this district and previously with Wandle district but primarily the adventure day.

To replace them, the district has appointed Michael Mayhew & Colin Pullen as DCSL's and we still of course have Graham Fairclough without whom I definitely couldn't manage, nothing seems to faze him, even a phone call from me in hospital last month telling him at the last minute that not only would he need to minute the next CSL meeting but chair it as well! Many thanks it's great to know he is always able to help.

We weren't able this year to put a team forward for the county quiz, no packs seem to be interested, which is a shame as I am sure we have many keen cubs out there who would do very well, perhaps it's something we can think about for the future.

So, thank you to all the leaders for giving your packs such good fun and scouting and let's hope next year goes just as well. Remember if you are having problems, please let us know and we will see if we are able to help.

## **ADC Scouts Report May 2016 – May 2017: Dave Bixby**

It has been a mixed year. Numbers are still bumping along, one year up the next year down. 2016 is slightly down on 2015 but there appears to be no real trend as a couple of the more established Troops are down, in one case at least because they put a number of Scouts up to Explorers just before the census.

It is encouraging to see that some of the Troops that have been challenged in recent years are beginning to turn a corner. Although currently some of these Troops have small numbers there has been a change in the Leader team or just refocus of approach which has started to bear fruit.

Slow and steady is good because growth is then more sustainable. Rapid growth always brings the danger of rapid decline if not carefully managed.

I was sad to see the demise of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Wimbledon but, with very low numbers and Leaders just not doing basic training, it was never going to end well, despite the huge amount of support they had received.

All our events have been very successful in the past year. It was nice to see some different Troops participating in them. The events are run to supplement Troops' own programme, but the pity is that there are a few that are struggling to provide a meaningful programme for their own Scouts but just won't use the District events to give them a basic framework to start with.

There has been quite reasonable increase in Troops using the pioneering equipment stored at the DHQ either in the grounds or at their own meeting place. Last Christmas we ran our first pioneering challenge to design and build a Christmas tree. This was ably won by a team from the 22<sup>nd</sup> Wimbledon.

After last year, I'm pleased to report that the Scout spirit has been restored at the paintball and football and everyone had a great time.

This year sees some significant milestones locally and within Scouting. Wimbledon windmill celebrates its bicentenary and

Scouting marks 110 years. To mark this anniversary, and the fact that B-P wrote part of Scouting for Boys in Windmill Cottage, we are basing our District Incident Hike in the windmill in November. The trustees of the windmill are keen to have us involved with the celebrations this year. It would be great to have every Troop take part even if we have combined teams. The idea is then to have a BBQ at the end of the day to mark the occasion.

Local Scouting was represented by Peter Hutton and Martin Whiting at the unveiling of a stone to commemorate George Cates who won a VC in 1917. George was an Assistant Scout Master in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wimbledon.

An increasing number of Scouts and Explorers have been taking advantage of Hot Fuzz and taking high speed cruises across the Solent to the Isle of Wight. This is an exciting activity and my sincere thanks go to Peter Treagust, Steve Little, Andy Bunyan and Phil Dennis for enabling this to happen.

We seem to have had a year of difficult communication. It really is necessary to deal with the basic admin on time and to respond to requests for information.

We produce the Red Book at some expense and a lot of effort but I still get questions that tell me that it has not been read.

My very grateful thanks go to those leaders who regularly step up to help organise District Scout events. Without them many of the activities just would not happen. Gary Baker, Duncan Hold, Peter Hutton, David Williams have all done more than would normally be expected to help make things happen.

Tim Kerridge has been a stalwart DSL taking the lead on several events. Many other leaders have started helping and my thanks go to every one of you.

Finally, and by no means least, Lesley has once again supported all that we have achieved during the year, from producing the Red Book, fielding queries and admin for our training weekend to making sure I'm where I should be by providing me with "gentle" reminders.

## **DESC Report May 2016 – April 2017: Neil McLauchlan**

It's been another busy year for the Explorer Section. We have also had our usual diverse mix of activities listed as below:

### **Meeting Nights**

Some of the unusual activities still amuse me, as well as repeating the tried and tested events. This year's highlights included: Chinese New Year, Burns Night, Russian Roulette (with hard and soft boiled eggs, don't ask!), Chip Survey, Bowling, Lateral Thinking and Airhop.

### **Camps & expeditions**

Most units have been away over the year, on their own, with other units or on District events. Units have been away to the Peak District, South Wales and to our old favourite Gilwell 24. This time we arranged for a coach to take everyone and their kit to and from the camp so that everyone could go and make the most out of the whole weekend from the Friday evening to the Sunday morning.

### **Explorer Belt**

5 intrepid Explorer Scouts from Raynes Park ESU took part in the County organised Explorer Belt Expedition in the summer. All 5 passed and showed off their belts at St George's Day Parade in April.

### **Group Help**

Most units have members that help at the younger sections. This is both at weekly meeting nights and at Group days out and at camps. Several more Explorer Scouts have finished their Young Leader Awards and are now showing off their Young Leader Belt buckles and badges.

### **District Activities**

Again these have been our usual mix of activities. We joined the scouts for Paintball, now a firm favourite. Thanks again to Dave Bixby for organising this. We had 3 units taking part in the Award Hikes in the spring, this was for both the Chief Scouts Platinum and Diamond Awards as well as the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. We attended both St George's Day and the Remembrance Day Parades as usual.

We had a new event this year: Monopoly Run. This involved teams travelling around London visiting the various Monopoly sites, taking photos of themselves there and then trying to claim bonus points for other 'suitable' photos of other Monopoly sites or objects. This was won by the West Barnes ESU.

Another favourite is Operation Red Flare, the County Night Hike. This year we entered 6 teams with the following results: 2<sup>nd</sup>: St Saviours (Winners 2<sup>nd</sup> place overall); 4<sup>th</sup>: St Saviours (Winners Ladies Team Trophy); 5<sup>th</sup>: Raynes Park (Winners Explorer Trophy); 12<sup>th</sup>: Fleet 612; 26<sup>th</sup>: Raynes Park and 27<sup>th</sup>: Empire. Everyone who entered had a fun time.

Mountain Expedition: We have just returned from a long weekend in the Brecon Beacons. We had 18 Explorer Scouts, 3 Network Scouts and 8 leaders. Everyone had a great time and made new friends. Thanks to the gang of leaders who made this weekend possible.

## **Leaders**

Well there has been several changes this year. We have a new DC. Many thanks for Joe for all the years that we worked together and welcome to Deborah. We have a new Youth Commissioner, Dan Fellowes and Network Commissioner, Josh Carter. Good luck to them both in their new roles. Our finance DESA Keith Johnson has moved to New Zealand he has passed the responsibilities onto Rebecca Carter. So many, many thanks to Keith for his years of hard work, and welcome to Rebecca. There has also been several changed to the individual Unit's leaders, as listed below.

## **Units**

**Empire:** Geordie is now in charge and is doing his best to keep the unit going. Thanks to Lee for all his years of work.

**Fleet 612 ESU:** Officially launched this year with Peter & Andy doing a great job. Thanks also to support from HQ with a temporary leader and financial support.

**Flying Penguins:** Tom Carter has now taken over from Deborah. Many thanks for her for her years of service building up this unit. Tom is doing a great job now as ESL. He is also helped by Andy who is helping at both the Explorers and Beavers.

**Merton Park:** Vicky and Clive are doing their usual sterling work assisted by Alex and Tom.

**Raynes Park:** Lucy and Olly have now moved too far away to commute to the weekly meetings and has handed over the ESL role to her brother Robbie. Robbie is now doing the weekly commute as ESL and organise an exciting programme. Sadly Claire and Andrew have had to step away from helping but Alison has transferred from Beavers and is now being a great help to Robbie. As said earlier Keith has also moved away after many years of great leadership.

**Sharks:** David is also doing a great job with the Sharks.

**St Saviour's:** Nigel and Chris are working well with the 13<sup>th</sup> Wimbledon as usual.

**West Barnes:** Dan, Liam and the gang are doing a great job supported by the 22<sup>nd</sup> Wimbledon.

**Wimbledon (Edge Hill):** Caroline and Natalie had relaunched the unit with some help from a few others. Sadly the support has not lasted and together with work commitments the Unit is currently not meeting. We do hope to be able to re-open it again soon.

Lastly I would like to thank all the leaders for the work and time that they put in each week throughout the year to run their Units. To Keith Angliss, Keith Johnston and now Rebecca Carter who support me with the financial reporting. To the GSL's and SL's who support with meeting places, equipment and the moving on of the Scouts to Explorer Scouts. Finally, my thanks go to Joe Rogerson, Deborah Carter and the District Team, Andy Edmonds and all the District Executive.

## **District SASU Report May 2016 – May 2017: Robert Brumwell**

Over the last twelve months we have been pleased to have been able to assist the District in various ways from acting as stewards at St George's Day, to providing security at last year's District Sports Day although some of our members helped directly at this event. We also helped with the Beaver bike ride, their activity day and international badge day. We continue to provide the catering at the District AGM.

We were also able to help at DHQ over a weekend during the Wandle Festival where the District were showcasing Scouting.

Our members were also pleased to assist a Group at their Barbeque and 10p fair. We also helped in the community at a Christmas Carole Service in a local Church.

In addition, we have Members providing group leadership, quarter-mastering, providing secretarial skills to sections and to District Team. There are members serving on the District Executive and the Appointments Advisory Committee

We help where we can.

We have had a full social side with, 'away days', plus summer and New Year meals, social evenings at DHQ and an annual quiz night.

This coming year we will be continuing with both our service side and have some interesting social activities planned.

To enable us to continue and improve our service to the District we need further additional members who can take an active part in helping the District.

If anybody would like to join us or knows of somebody who would like to take part in Scouting but cannot give a full-time commitment please contact Dave on 07768381809.

We only ask that you help occasionally throughout the year