



# Greenford Times



Growth, Recognition, Celebration



Newsletter of the Greenford & District Scout District ~ Registered Charity No 1046044 ~ June 2007

## DC's Chat



It's now three months since I took over the reigns of the District and, so far, I'm enjoying it!

As you all know, Louise O'Leary is my Deputy District Commissioner and Andrew Norman has taken on the role of District Explorer Scout Commissioner. I have also appointed Graham Holt as Assistant District Commissioner (Cub Scouts).

Other new appointments are Marianne Saulsbury as Local Training Administrator, Peter Melvin as a District Cub Scout Leader and Ian Muxlow as District Explorer Scout Administrator.

Annie Fordham has stepped down as a District Beaver Scout Leader. Thanks to Annie for her recent efforts in that role.

The Greenford Scout Network is building up with Scott Campbell now their Advisor and a weekly programme published on the district's website. If any 18 – 25 year olds are interested in joining, please email [network@greenfordscouts.org.uk](mailto:network@greenfordscouts.org.uk) or just turn up at one of their events.

### **Respect and Harmony**

In the past, Greenford & District has been one big happy family, working together for the benefit of the young people. Unfortunately this has changed recently and there are a few leaders that have grown a bit too big for their boots and seem to think that they know best and everyone else is wrong.

In some arenas there is a lack of respect for other people's opinions and inter Group rivalry is not being encouraged as healthy competition but as a way of attacking and putting down the other Group.

I am disgusted by these attitudes of a small minority of adults. It is not big or clever, nor does it make them a better person.

We are all in Scouting to enable the young people in our charge to learn and develop, gain new skills, grow as individuals and, above all, have fun. Encouraging young people not to respect other scouts or other leaders and adults not respecting each other is, quite frankly, the opposite of what we are about. Have we forgotten the seventh Scout Law?

We all have disagreements from time to time but grown up people will get on with their lives, agree to disagree and move on. Holding grudges or harping back to the year dot because someone did something to someone else is counter-productive and must be discouraged.

I am all for positive Scouting. We need to look forward, not backwards, listen to the views of everyone around us, young and old, new and experienced. They all have a right to be heard and, you never know, you might learn something.

I am looking forward to some harmony being reinstated into the District where every Group gets on with all of the others, is represented at all events and meetings and co-operation and joint activities between groups and sections is the norm not the exception.

It needs everyone to pull together to achieve this. Think about your actions and the way you interact with others. Is it you I'm referring to? If it is, please do something about it.

### **Standards**

It has been very noticeable over the last few years that the standard of uniforms and behaviour has been somewhat lacking.

A reminder should not be needed that we are a uniformed organisation with a defined uniform for all sections.

I expect the leaders in this District to be setting an example but when I see adults still in the "old" uniform I am not surprised that standards are slipping. The uniform changed well over five years ago yet some leaders have not moved on.

The uniform for Scouts and Explorer Scouts includes navy blue activity trousers with a Scout belt. Either or both are lacking in many Troops and Units.

Footwear should be appropriate to the activity – that means polished shoes at formal occasions.

Headwear is a Scout baseball cap or nothing (Sea Scouts are an exception to this). Berets, "Mountie" style hats and any other type of headwear should not be worn when full uniform is appropriate.

Finally, occasional badges should be removed within a year of the activity happening. They must not be worn indefinitely. This includes Kandersteg badges, Chief Scout's Picnic, Group anniversary patches, etc.

Behaviour of the young people will improve if the adults give them and others the respect that is deserved. Young people will respect adults but it has to be earned – it does not come automatically.

It has also been noticed that basic traditional Scouting skills have been lacking in the Scouts and Explorer Scouts that have been coming through to undertake expeditions, pioneering, etc.

I believe that this is somewhat down to the fact that some of these skills (such as map and compass, basic camping, knots, etc.) are not being taught by some of the Beaver and Cub sections so when the young people reach the Scouts, they do not have the basic grounding for the scout leaders to progress these skills. The scout leaders then have to teach the basics.

There are many reasons for this:

- the current youth programme allows for these skills not to be used as much as previous programmes,
- the leadership in the younger sections may not have the knowledge themselves to teach these activities.

This list is not exhaustive but it is a valid point that we should be able to pass on skills to Beaver Scouts that will go forward with them as they get older and progress through the sections and therefore actively use these skills in the Scout and Explorer Scout sections when at camp and out in wild country.

There is no reason why beaver scouts should not learn about a ridge tent or find out about basic mapping or tie an reef knot – they tie their shoe laces which is far harder than a reef knot.

### ***Skills weekend***

To this end I am encouraging all leaders in all sections to look at your weekly programmes and ensure that you have included some of the traditional Scouting skills.

I know that some of you do not have the knowledge to do these activities so I have asked Rik Fox to organise a fun weekend for leaders and helpers – especially, but not exclusively, of the beaver and cub sections – who may want to learn some basic skills.

The dates are 15 & 16 September at Southall Activity Centre. More details will be forthcoming nearer the time but in the meantime we need to know what you want to learn to do.

You may have never erected a patrol tent or do not know how to tie some simple knots or don't know one end of a compass from the other. Or you might know some of these but do not know how to make it enjoyable for the young people.

We can help. This is the type of thing that we want to offer you. Please discuss it in your groups and your sectional meetings and feed

back what you want to Rik as soon as possible.

### Finally

I have waffled on for over two pages here but I hope that you all agree with my views.

I welcome your thoughts and opinions and would be happy to talk to anyone about what I have said here or anything else. If you do agree with me please let me know so that I know if I am going in the right direction. If you do not agree with what I have said I also need to know as I need to understand your point of view.

So, as we progress through the 100<sup>th</sup> year of the Scout Movement may I encourage you to enjoy your Scouting and look forward to a bigger, better, brighter movement in the next 100 years.

**Ian D Chick**  
District Commissioner  
[dc@greenfordscouts.org.uk](mailto:dc@greenfordscouts.org.uk)

### District Raffle 2007

A REMINDER: the draw for the District Raffle takes place at the District AGM on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2007 at DHQ.

You need to return all your ticket stubs, money and unsold tickets to Pauline May in the shop at DHQ BY 11<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2007 in order for your tickets to be included in the Raffle.

Half the money you take goes to your Group, so keep selling and get those ticket stubs in on time.

### Nights Away Notification

Just a reminder to all of you out there that if you are planning any activity that involves time spent during the night then there **must** be a person with a Nights Away Permit present\*.

This includes staying in your own Scout HQ over night and night hikes as well as camps.

The Nights Away Notification form (NAN) **must** be completed and given to the District Commissioner no later than seven (7) days prior to the event. If you are not staying on a recognised Scout camp site then you must

also send a copy of the NAN to the host DC at least fourteen (14) days prior to the event. This includes if you are staying on Girlguiding UK sites.

Failure to comply with this could mean that your Nights Away Permit is suspended or not renewed when it expires.

Also, please check if your Nights Away Permit is still valid as they have expiry dates. Please speak with Rik Fox, Nights Away Advisor, if you are in doubt.

NAN's may be downloaded at <http://www.scoutbase.org.uk/ps/nightsaway/resources.htm>.

*\* Nights Away permit holders may delegate authority for Patrol or Explorer Scout camps held without leaders using the Event Passport. Please see The Scout Association fact sheet fs120431.*

### Out of District Forms

"Out of District" forms are to be completed and given to the District Commissioner (DC) if you are undertaking an activity out side of the District.

If all or part of the activity is taking place over night then an Out of District form is *not* required as a Nights Away Notification will be needed.

The Out of District form may be given to the Group Scout Leader (GSL) instead of the DC unless the GSL is involved in the activity or if the activity is an adventurous one that requires an Activity Permit (e.g. climbing, hiking, etc.).

### Do not throw your Scouting address sheet away!

From The Scout Association

The wait is over - the June/July 'international' issue of Scouting has just hit your doormats. But there are two very good reasons not to throw away your magazine address sheet this issue.



The first is that it could be your 'Golden Ticket' to the World Scout Jamboree. Visit [www.thejamboree.org/goldenticket](http://www.thejamboree.org/goldenticket) and type in your 'Golden Ticket' number to see if you have won free tickets.

### New Appointment Cards

The second is that next to your address details, we have listed what we have on record as your current Appointments and their expiry date. Later this year, The Scout Association will launch new Appointment cards and your Scouting magazine cover sheet shows what information will be printed on your card.

If any of this information is incorrect, please amend and pass the sheet to your District/County/Area Secretary who will update your details. If you have already thrown away your sheet, you can check your own details on the online Membership system or speak to your District/County/Area Secretary, who will be able to tell you what information we have recorded for you.

### Greenford Gang Show 2008



Dear friends, supporters, past and present cast members of Greenford Gang Show.

I am proud to announce I am this year's 2008 Gang Show producer.

Over the last 15 years I have always been involved in Gang Show in some role either on stage or helping behind the scenes. I believe Gang Show is an important part of both this District's heritage and Scouting, it provides fun, confidence, challenges, social interaction at all ages and team work.

I think each year brings something new, new people, new ideas as well as meeting old friends and keeping tradition. I would like to ask you for your help in keeping this going.

You are invited to an informal meeting on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> June at 8pm at DHQ, Hill Rise.

I would like everyone young and mature to be given the opportunity to have an input into the 2008 show. Please come along with songs, sketches, dances, costume ideas, stunts,

themes and any job you may wish to take up in the Gang Show, i.e. choreography, music, artist, director, writer, back stage, etc.

Please pass this message on to all your friends, Gang Show needs YOU!

**Stanley Miller**

### Dates for 2008

Here are some dates for diary for 2008.

Presentation Evening	Sat 12 Jan
Greenford Gang Show	21 – 23 Feb
St. George's Day	27 Apr
District Camp	23 – 26 May
Remembrance Day	Sun 9 Nov

Dates are available on the District Website, [greenfordSCOUTS.org.uk](http://greenfordSCOUTS.org.uk).

### CRBs

There are a lot of people in the District that have never completed a Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) Disclosure application. This is because they have been in post since before CRBs were introduced and have not changed their role.

The District is now "mopping up" those people that fall into this category and CRB forms are being sent to individuals to complete, get documents checked and then send back to Pauline May, Appointments Secretary, as soon as possible.

Please remember that if you are posting the CRBs to Pauline to ensure that you have the correct postage paid as they will be classed as large letters. Pauline has already had several that had had insufficient postage paid and she has had to make unnecessary trips to the local Royal Mail depot to collect these mailings.

Pauline is at DHQ most Monday evenings in the shop so these forms could be brought to DHQ in person.

Your co-operation is greatly appreciated.



## THE JACK PETCHEY AWARDS

During 2006 Greenford & District became recipients of the Jack Petchey Awards to Scout section for the first time.

These awards go out each month and £200 is awarded to the Group who have nominated one of their Scouts. The Nomination has to specify the reason for the award and exactly what the money will be spent on. There are also quarterly awards of £200 for the Explorer Scout section and annual awards of £1,000 for a Leader from the Scout and Explorer Scout sections.

Unfortunately last year due to some problems (outside of our control) the Leaders' awards were not presented and we did not receive the November and December awards. Hopefully this year there will be no problems and we will receive all the awards for the year. The Group's GSL needs to ensure that the nomination forms are returned in good time for them to be forwarded to County, otherwise the nomination may be disallowed.

There is a yearly awards ceremony for the winners and their families. At this ceremony they will receive a medal to honour their achievement and meet with members of the Jack Petchey foundation. The award ceremony for the 2006 winners is to be held in July this year at Greenford Hall.

Congratulations to all those who received awards and I have listed below everyone who received awards in 2006 and for the first quarter of 2007 - Should you want to nominate a Leader for the award in 2007 then ask either myself or the DC for a Leader nomination form.

### 2006

January	Mark Mayaski	3 <sup>rd</sup> Northolt
February	Alex Goodwin	2 <sup>nd</sup> Northolt
March	Raj Chavda	3 <sup>rd</sup> Perivale
March Quarter	David Savory	Greenford Explorers
April	Lewis Bailey	9 <sup>th</sup> Greenford
May	Divyesh Patel	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wembley
June	Ryan Elliott	4 <sup>th</sup> Northolt
June Quarter	Daniel Webb	Young Leaders
July	Jessica Scott	4 <sup>th</sup> Greenford
August	Parminder Singh Matharu	13 <sup>th</sup> Southall
September	Sam Molloy	12 <sup>th</sup> Northolt
September Quarter	Sukhbir Singh Marbay	Southall Explorers
October	Malik Ouzia	8 <sup>th</sup> Greenford

### 2007

January	Craig Newell	1 <sup>st</sup> Northolt
February	Cassandra Cheng	8 <sup>th</sup> Greenford
March	Jonathon Ramdeen	3 <sup>rd</sup> Northolt
March Quarter	Kenny Davies	Greenford Explorers

**Pauline E May**

**Jack Petchey Co-ordinator, Greenford & District Scout District**

To find out more about the Jack Petchey Foundation, please see its website at [www.jackpetcheyfoundation.org.uk](http://www.jackpetcheyfoundation.org.uk).

*TO: All Commissioners, Scouters, Administrators, Section Assistants, Skills Instructors, Advisers, Explorer Scouts, Chairmen of Troop Leadership Forums, Members of the District Scout Fellowship, parents of Explorer Scouts and members of the District Executive Committee in Greenford & District*

## **GREENFORD & DISTRICT SCOUTS**

Invite you to the

### **DISTRICT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2007  
7.45 for 8.00pm start  
at District Headquarters  
Hill Rise  
Greenford.

Presentations and The Grand Draw will take place during the evening.

**Refreshments to be served.**