

Scouting in Runnymede

Andy's Notes - Happy New Year

With 2012 now behind us, I hope you all had a great Christmas break and are now refreshed and ready for Scouting 2013. As ever looking at the District Diary, we have a full, busy and exciting year ahead, with the highlight of our District Camp to look forward to plus a trip to Iceland for our Explorers. A while ago I asked you all to support District events and thank you to those groups who have risen to the challenge for this gives our young people opportunities to experience Scouting across Runnymede as well as helping give support to our leaders' programmes – Thank You.

The Activities team has gone from strength to strength with the launch of the shooting team in December; another exciting opportunity for our young people. In 2013 I aim to continue to consolidate on these strengths plus, with the support of the District team, focus upon the administration side in the District. It is looking to be another tough year economically and I ask you all to keep pushing the message - what other youth organisation in Runnymede offers such a wide range of activities and opportunities for our young people in terms of value for money.

I look forward to seeing you all at events across Runnymede in 2013.

Andy Sainsbury Brown - District Commissioner

Treasury Notes

The age of extremely low interest rates looks likely to be with us for 2013, so it is even more important to make sure that your group is getting the best return available on any reserves it may have. Even in the times of higher interest rates, the then County Treasurer advised that any group or district executive committee maintaining more than a working balance with a high street bank or building society was not taking its trustee responsibilities seriously. To illustrate the point one group in Runnymede with cash assets of £4,000 earned £21; while another with cash assets of nearly £34,000 earned just over £2. The question is: where to look for a good but safe return and easy access? The District (and a number of groups) has deposit accounts with the Charities Official Investment Fund currently paying 0.75% per annum (www.ccla.co.uk). The Scout Association has a Short Term Investment Service paying slightly less than COIF (no website detail, so call Frances at Scout HQ on 020 8433 7252 – Mon to Fri 9am to 3pm for details). The Charities Aid Foundation's CAF Bank has a range of accounts paying more than a high street bank or building society (www.cafonline.org).

From 1 January 2013, HMRC has changed the wording of Gift Aid declarations. The primary changes mean that donors must now confirm that they will pay enough tax to cover all donations they intend to make that year - **excluding VAT and Council Tax**. The revised wording can be found on HMRC's website: www.hmrc.gov.uk/charities/appendix_b1.pdf Forms based on the previous wording and signed before 31 December 2012 will be accepted by HMRC.

The District Executive Committee will be setting its budget and capitation for 2013-14 at its meeting on 21 January. We have been told that the HQ subscription will remain at £21 and that the County subscription has been increased by 15p to £5.40. The total capitation figure will be announced after the meeting.

Richard Mason - District Treasurer



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In Memorium

It is with great sadness that we have to announce the death of Elsie Meany, aged 96 one of our District Vice Presidents who was a great supporter of Souting within Runnymede. Her Funeral is on Friday 11th January, at the Church of Assumption Englefield Green.

District Online Scout Shop

Thanks to our energetic DC, the online Scout Shop has generated sales of over £6,000 during 2012. We are pleased to announce that 50% of the gross profit will again be paid to each group, pro rata to the sales attributable to that group.

The prize for the highest dividend goes to 1st/4th Addlestone who will be receiving £123.97; close runners up are 1st Ottershaw with £121.76 and 1st Egham Hythe receiving £117.51. Our newest group, 1st Egham, came a creditable fourth with £98.67.

Some groups are not making the best of this facility and we would encourage everyone to promote it to parents and leaders. The more purchases generated the higher the dividend. The 50% of gross profit retained by the District was used to meet running expenses of the shop and to subsidise the current year's District capitation by about 50p per head. Thanks again to Andy for all his hard work.

Richard Mason- District Treasurer

Tigers Celebrate Diwali



Diwali is also known as the festival of lights, but translates into "row of lamps", so we decided to make our own lamps as part of an evening of activities. At the end of the meeting, we turned the hall lights out and the cubs were read a story that originated in India,

to the glow of the lamps. What to do with them before home time? – I know, whose birthday is it this month? Joseph and Kenny fitted the bill and were given the task of 'birthday cake candle practise' and blew out the lot in one go.

Gareth Jenkins- Cub Scout Leader, 1st/4th Addlestone (Tigers)

Poppy Collection

Thank you to all those who gave up their time on Saturday 3rd November 2012 to collect for the British Legion.

The amount collected came to just over £611.

George Kerr

District Diary 2013

(Revised dates in RED)

January 2013

(School starts 7th)

Mon 21st District Executive Meeting
Thr 24th Keeping Children Safe
Mon 28th Fellowship/Active Support Meeting

February 2013

(School half term 18th to 22nd)

Sat 2nd Cubs Big Splash
Sat 9th Scouts Cooking Competition
Sat 16th Beaver Badge Day

March 2013

(School holiday 29th to 15th April)

Sun 3rd Scouts Ramble Quiz
Sun 3rd Cubs Cooking Competition
Sun 17th 1st Response Course
Mon 18th Fellowship/Active Support Meeting
Thr 28th to Tue 2nd Network Camp
Sun 31st Beaver Ramble

April 2013

Tue 16th Parade Flag Practice
Sun 21st St Georges Day Parade and Service
Mon 22nd Fellowship St Georges Dinner.
Fri 26th Scouts Five-A-Side Football
Sat 27th Keeping Children Safe

May 2013

(School half term 27th to 31st)

Sat 4th 1st Response Course
Mon 13th District Executive Meeting
Fri 17th Cubs Football Competition

June 2013

Mon 3rd Fellowship/Active Support Meeting
Sat 15th SCRAM Cubs County Event
Thr 20th District AGM
Fri 28th to Sun 30th District Camp- Bently Copse

July 2013

(School ends 24th)

Mon 15th District Executive Meeting
Sat 20th Beaver About

August 2013

September 2013

(School starts 3rd)

Mon 9th Fellowship/Active Support Meeting
Fri 27th to Sun 29nd Sixers/Seconders Camp

October 2013

(School half term 28th to 1st Nov)

Sat 5th Cubs Fishing Competition
Fri 11th to Mon 14th Fellowship/Active support Weekend Away
Mon 14th District Executive Meeting
Sun 20th 1st Response Course

November 2013

Mon 4th Fellowship/Active Support Meeting
Fri 15th Cubs Night Hike

December 2013

(School ends 20th)

Tue 3rd Cubs Christingle Service

Copy date for next issue
23th February 2013
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