

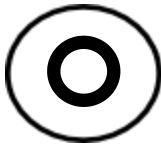
EALING & HANWELL

Scout District

NEWS



SEPTEMBER 2006



Sadly we recently learnt of the death of **George Bodin**, the representative deputy lieutenant in the Borough. He was a great friend to Scouting, attending many functions, events parades etc. over the years. He will be missed as he was a contact with many important people who helped us over the years.

The main camping season is now over we start the new Scouting year leading up to the **2007 centenary year**.

A year when we can show the country, county and local area that Scouting is still as relevant to young people as it was 100 years ago.

Having a clear out a month ago I can across among the family papers a **Cub Scout Diary for 1916** which belonged to one of my uncles. In addition I had found in a book shop one of the original books by BP when in the army showing how to 'Scout'. This was the forerunner for 'Scouting for Boys'.

For many people that I come into contact with, they nearly always state how much they enjoyed their days in the Cubs and Scouts. It is time that we persuaded them to come back to Scouting to help you provide those thrills and excitement for the future generations.

The **MDU visit to the Carnival** did provide names of many youngsters but only one adult. Experience around the County has shown that direct approach to parents is providing the source of new leaders. So do speak to your parents as they are undoubtedly the way ahead if we are to continue Scouting.

The **District AGM** is on Wednesday 13th 8pm at the Brent Valley Golf Club, with some light refreshments being provided.

A **day to remember** from a leader and report of the **County trip to Kandersteg** give an insight to some recent activities.

The Chalfont web site has been revamped do visit www.chalfont.org

Jack Petchey Awards

Calling all scout and explorer leaders.

Hurrah! The first three cheques have arrived from the **Jack Petchey Foundation**. Congratulations to **Joe Salmon 1H, Anthony Shaw7H and Jeremy Hunt 5H** scouts.

So what are you all waiting for.....send me the details of your nomination, name, age, group and why they have been nominated and what you will spend the money on and I'll do the rest. We are in danger of losing out on some months now but it would be wonderful to be able to have too many! Come on there must be scouts who have excelled themselves over summer camp. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

We have now submitted nominations up to and including September so we need leaders to submit a scout or explorer for October by the end of September.

Email me at
madelinesecombe@hotmail.com.

Madeline Secombe

DISTRICT SWIMMING GALA

The District Swimming Gala takes place on Saturday, 14th October, and you are reminded that all entry forms must be submitted to John Sear by **21st September at the latest**. Remember that it is numbers only that are required and names can be forwarded at a later date. If you have completed your entry form by the AGM on **13th September** it can be handed over then.

SCOUTS 5-A-SIDE FOOTBALL

Scout Section are reminded that the 5-a-side entries should have reached John Sear by early September. If you have not done so please advise the number of teams you wish to enter in this year's competition.

John Sear

My big day at the Palace

The proudest day of my Scouting career came on Tuesday 18th July when I was invited to represent the Scout Association as an assistant at the Queen's birthday party at Buckingham Palace. Twenty members of the Scout Network from all over London were personally asked to attend and help the Palace officials in various tasks but also to be a visual presence to 8000 people. I have been part of Greater London Middlesex West Scout Network for 10 months now and have done lots of exciting things but to go into the Palace with my friends and people my age was the best feeling. Over fifteen Queen Scouts were present, some Sea Scouts and even an air scout representing Middlesex West, GL South West and GL North East.

We all met at the side entrance to the Palace on Buckingham Gate at lunchtime where Martyn Milner, field development officer, briefed us all on what was in store for the day. Then after security checks we were led into what was nicknamed (by us) 'the cinema' as it had a very large TV screen in it. Even this smallish room was well decorated with windows that opened out onto the lawn, the venue for the Garden party. After lunch we were told of the different jobs; collecting entry tickets at the three entrances, pushing around wheelchairs and being general stewards, assisting the crowd where necessary. I was on the

Hyde Park Corner Gate with another member of Middlesex West from Hounslow, collecting guest's tickets as they came in, in a large sack. It was good that we could welcome people as they came in, creating an immediate presence in our uniforms. Although many people wanted to keep hold of their tickets as a souvenir, we had to take everyone's as a security measure so we had a tall, fully uniformed Royal Welsh guard standing next to us should anyone have gotten out of hand! Many Scouters both uniformed and non-uniformed extended their left hands throughout the day and I met a whole host of different people.

The gates opened to the guests at 3pm for a 4pm start and at our gate we were quite lucky as there was a water station and shade, temperatures reaching about 30°C with a clear blue sky and not much breeze. It was heavy on the feet standing in one place for over ninety minutes and my voice was hurting after repetitively saying 'tickets please' and 'thank you, have a nice day'. Nevertheless it was worth it, the grounds of Buckingham palace were so beautiful, the grass perfectly cut, the flower gardens full of colour and smell and even the gravel paths levelled before the guests arrived. After we had finished our job we headed back to the main lawn for tea, cucumber sandwiches, cake and ice cream (no exaggeration!). The lawn was thriving with people, with the back drop of the palace, the tea tents on the left and VIP's tents on the right and two bands playing throughout the afternoon, it was an awesome sight.

At the party was Her Majesty the Queen, HRH Prince Philip the Duke of Edinburgh, The Duke of York and the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester. There was no need to ask where these mem-

bers of the Royal family were, large circles of people would form around them, waiting to be spoken to. The Queen unsurprisingly had the largest crowd and with a green parasol and matching hat, I hope she was keeping cool in the afternoon sun. Suffice to say I did not speak to her however I spoke to many Scout leaders including a district commissioner from Cornwall and the national commissioner for Scouts. By 5:30pm we all had to return from the gardens to the central lobby of the palace to form a guard of honour for those who were leaving. We all were quite tired but we did our best to stand tall and smile, thanking everyone for coming. We stood there for over an hour but spending time in such a grand building with beautiful paintings, mirrors, staircases, carpets and marble stone was great feeling in itself.

By the time most of the people had left the palace we broke from our guard and were presented with certificates of assistance from the Lord Chamberlain's Office, which just topped the day off for me. We collected our belongings and made our way out of the Palace and much to the bemusement of the tourists we had our photograph taken (as no cameras were allowed in the Palace). The day had finished as it had started, in blazing sunshine but the smile on my face was even larger than before. One thing that was said stuck in my mind, 'you never know when you might next be back here', whether it be as a Queen Scout, a DOE gold recipient or as a leader in years to come. I was glad of the opportunity and it

only came through being part of the Network in our county which has taken off big style over the last year. There is a dynamic that is seeing the section grow and with an Explorer Belt expedition to Switzerland this summer; I would urge all 18 to 25's to be part of a very exciting opportunity.

Dominic Figon ASL
GLMW Scout Network

Kandersteg 2006

For reports, pictures and copies of the "Yodel" go to www.glmwscouts.org.uk and click on Kandersteg 2006 and see how the dream became a reality.

Or read the report by 7th Hanwell.

Kandersteg 2006 - 7th Hanwell Expedition to Switzerland

In the end 33 intrepid souls belonging to or associated with the 7th Hanwell scouts set off for the adventure of a lifetime by coach from Gurnell, one blustery Monday morning. We catch a ferry at Dover and then board an exclusive train at Calais which takes us directly to KISC in Switzerland. Our eldest member is 65 our youngest just 10 (by 5 days). We have 5 leaders (3 male 2 female), 8 explorers scouts,, 17 scouts and 3 guides. Unfortunately because two of the scouts had to drop out in the week before we went, due to accidents, we were down to 33 from the original 35. Needless to say we do not lose any more during the trip.

KISC (Kandersteg International Scout Centre)

Obviously in Switzerland but not Swiss, Kandersteg International Scout Centre is the only world centre of the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM). The Centre began in 1923 with Lord Robert Baden-Powell, who, after the first World Scout Jamboree had a dream about a place where all Scouts from all over the world could meet. Kandersteg is easily reached by road and rail and provides an excellent base for sight-seeing or exploring the Alps. The Centre is situated at 1,200 metres above sea level, 65 kilometres south of Bern. The Centre is at the southern end of the small, traditional village of Kandersteg and is open both to groups and individuals, Scouts and non-Scouts, throughout the year. Look up the KISC website for more info.

The Campsite is built on the tailings from the Lötschberg railway tunnel into Italy and is therefore very stony. But in 7th Hanwell tradition the 5 P's (see glossary) were applied and extra strong steel pegs were used to make holes for the normal pegs and additional underground sheets used. It takes a little longer but it's worth it.

The adventure begins

We get off the train at the Kandersteg campsite siding and have to carry our bags up from the railway track to our campsite, say 500m, which is just about the furthest away from anywhere (bad point = longer to walk anywhere, good point = we're not disturbed by anyone else and nobody is disturbed by us, on balance its better!). It was a long slog but carried out in good spirits. Our camping gear is sitting on one corner and everybody gets stuck in and very soon tents are

springing up like daffodils. A few glitches are sorted from our extensive repair kit and things are looking good. We get a hot dog lunch provided by the GLMW crew, sort out some furniture, gas and huge admin pile and by 4pm were settled in. Everybody is released to explore the site and make new friends.

Food

We all know the saying that an army marches on its stomach, well pretty much the same principle applies to camps. We have one of the 2 scheduled cooked breakfasts of bacon and eggs (a new and probably expensive innovation for Kandersteg) to make a change from normal bread/jam/meat/cheese, and we were really getting into the English/Swiss style with gusto. Soup was on offer every night followed by main meals of meat and sauce with either pasta or rice or potatoes. These were knocked up in big pots and served to all with every scrap being wolfed down. It was then not too unusual to see a minor scuffle taking place for the scrapings at the bottom of the pots. Again chunks of bread helped fill those bellies. Puddings were usually a pot of something or an ice cream, which we supplemented with gallons of either custard or angel delight, which we'd, brought out with us to soak up the anticipated milk lake. Most people soon worked out what they liked in their lunchtime rolls, meat or cheese or both with or without butter/salad/pickle etc. With a drink, a piece of fruit and a chocolate bar, packed lunches were simple to make, enjoyable and filling. We certainly didn't go hungry.

Activites

So with stomachs suitably full we're ready for the activities. Again remember these activities were booked 6 months ago. Most of the scouts wouldn't appreciate the difference between a mountain and a molehill, which probably explains why they used to make the former out of the latter so often! Anyway they sure know now, mountains are what you walk up, slide down, toboggan down, white water raft down - but you do generally have to walk up them. Mountain lakes and streams are cold but worth a quick dip!!! Mountains have weather, hot, cold, wet, dry probably all in the same day. It can snow in the mountains even in summer! Mountains are beautiful and every time you look at them they are different. Mountains can be dangerous and you treat them with respect but most of all **Mountains are fun!!!**

Our intrepid explorers, completed a Glacier workshop during which they experienced over 6 inches of snow!!! All of the scouts walked up to the upper hut, some 690m above Kandersteg (1200m) for their Rock Climbing workshop in the smelly mountain hut, which runs out of solar powered electricity at about 9pm and one group woke up to half an inch of snow! What a sight, it was like a fairytale. Meanwhile back at the campsite the other group were experiencing a torrential downpour which quickly turned our site into a field of mud, which looked like something out of the first world war and was christened the "Somme". Everybody chair lifts up to Oescinensee, (another 500m or so) which is a fantastic mountain lake where there is

tobogganing and a swim in the lake for the brave. We also squeeze in some swimming at the local pool, cruising the village's penknife shops on the way back. (This one shop offers free engraving, wonderful marketing, and pretty much cleans up all our penknife needs) and some abseiling on a large rock actually on the campsite. This all by only day 4/5, Friday/Saturday!!! Sunday then see's us going up our 3rd different mountain valley to a little village called Selden (only 350m above Kandersteg!) For the really weary there's a bus up, the rest walk and everybody has to walk down but playing is encouraged. There's a wibbly wobbly bridge, streams to dam, miles of pebble beaches and paddling. Of course there's the mountains rising either side of the valley; some with snow caps, some with glaciers, some with waterfalls cascading down and all breathtakingly beautiful.

Monday and we are now in "train" mode with the 7.56 to Spietz changing onto the something past 9 for a 10 o'clock start at Boltigen on the river Simme. Swiss trains run on time, if your watch says l'ts early or late then change your watch!!! We were joined by scouts from both Kenton and Brentford for the White water rafting. In total there were 8 rafts with just over 70 scouts. The rafts bump the banks, go forwards, backwards, sideways through the various rapids with the spray splashing everyone and every raft slashing every other raft whenever an occasion arises. It's the international Bar-B-Q outside the KISC chalet. We just make our 1900 eating slot, grab our burgers, sausages and salads and also try some of the international fare on offer by the various

nationalities. Haggis, Spanish sausage, Water melon, Italian wine, Kendal mint cake and probably a lot more that I didn't see. We mingle and build human pyramids, 3 storey's high with Ed on the top, ech!!! Bethaney shawls the St Georges flag and starts her autograph collection. We (7th Hanwell) do a turn on the Balcony there's some crazy dancing, everybody joins in the Macarena and a good time is had by all.

Train mode again the next morning for our day trip to Interlaken, and we trade a couple of hours in town for a lazy start and our first full cooked breakfast. AND THE SUN IS SHINING!!!, Great views of the Eiger, great retail therapy opportunities, a funicular railway with another toboggan, nice cafés and even a McDonald's for those with withdrawal symptoms. In fact pretty much something for every one.

The next morning the intrepid dawn hikers get up at 4.30 despite the pouring rain. Although they made the top of Allme in good time, the inclement weather precludes any sunrise viewing. With no need to hang around at the top they were back by 9.30 and all got their well-deserved ham, & eggs reward. Sadly this is our last day and it has been programmed as a "flexiday", i.e. free choice activity. Some chose to revisit Oeschinensee, some the swimming pool and town and the explorers go to play ice hockey. Everybody then meets at the pool for the KISC organised "Wet & Wild" session. Then back to site for a final dinner of pork

rosti with or without salami, boiled potatoes and steamed vegetables with or without mushrooms. Then back to town again for the final Disco at the ice rink. After packing up we board the train home at 16.30 the next day and reverse our outward journey home. Were then back at Gurnell arriving about 7 minutes past 12, not quite Swiss train timing but not bad, 7 minutes late after 11 days!!! Sadly the adventure comes to an end, as all good things must.

Next time

The next county expedition to Kandersteg will be (all being well) in 2010. I hope I can make it, what about you?

Checkout the awesome photos at:
<http://www.thomashanwell.org.uk/Scouts.htm>

John, SL

Join-in-Centenary

Join-in-Centenary is here! The mailing of the resources will begin in the first week of September. and will also be downloadable from the Internet. Please use this opportunity to promote JiC in your local area- it is a fantastic way to ensure that every single person involved in Scouting in the UK is able to take an active part in the Centenary Celebrations!

Remember that the Join-in-Centenary Scarf and Badges can also be pre-ordered from Scout Shops-

Camp Site service crew are looking for new members. Ideally I would like (on top of the help I already have) 3-4 Leaders and as many Explorers/Scouts who want to help. Explorers and Scouts can put this work towards Scouting and DofE requirements.

There is lots to do at the campsite and I think its only fair that everyone who

helped with the Toilet block refurb be given a rest and let some new blood take a step up. Please contact me on (07968 606861 - paulphillips666@ntlworld.com - paul@balloonandpartyshop.co.uk or phillipp@unitedbiscuits.com)

Paul Phillips

The **Scout County AGM** is to be held at

Preston Manor Senior High School,
Carlton Avenue East,
Wembley HA9 8NA on
Wednesday 27th September at 8.0pm

Uniform with awards should be worn where appropriate.

Ealing & Hanwell reps will be elected at the District AGM

the dates for the next period are:-

13/09/2006	District AGM
17/09/2006	Beaver Birthday Picnic & Games
18/09/2006	Beaver & Cub Scout Leaders meeting
30/09/2006	County Cub Scout Birthday Fun Day
09/10/2006	GSL Meeting Leighton Hall

Date of next issue

1st November 2006

Reports of activities, expeditions etc to reach the editor by 28th October 2006

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