



South Berkshire District Newsletter

Celebration of People

As in many walks of life, it is people that matter most and who define what we do and how well we do it. In this month's newsletter we wish to celebrate (and commemorate) those in our District who make us what we are. As the District Commissioner I feel extremely privileged to work alongside the people who help to deliver Scouting, and humbled by the efforts and time that they give for the benefit of our Young People.

For the past few years we have seen continual growth in our District which is testament to the successful delivery of Scouting. In this difficult year we are liable to see a slight fall in numbers, but thanks to our leaders' efforts many are staying with us.

We hope everybody has a fond experience in our Family and some that leave may even return one day.



For the rest of us, we can start planning and look forward to some more great times soon.

Graeme
dc@southberksscouts.uk

Merit Awards Presented

It is with real pleasure that we can announce the following adults have been presented with their merit awards:

- Pauline Baker, 9th Bracknell – Bar to the Award for Merit
- Graham Davies, 3rd Sandhurst – Award for Merit
- Emma Stewart, 3rd Sandhurst – Chief Scout's Commendation for Good Service
- Marc Barnett, 2nd Sandhurst - Chief Scout's Commendation for Good Service

Congratulations to you all and very well done.

Commemorations

This past month we very sadly lost 2 members of our District:

- Jim Finnie, District Vice President. Jim had been a great friend and supporter of Scouting for many years. As a leading parish councillor, he was able to help us in many ways to ensure Scouting was recognised by local authorities.
- Chris Hills, Chair of the AAC. Chris had made many contributions to Scouting over 30 years. From an active parent supporter at 1st Crowthorne, to Chairman and fund raiser at Earleywood.

They will both be sorely missed but very fondly remembered.

Leadership Teams Shout Out

During these challenging times, it was wonderful to receive the following commendation from a parent at 1st Crowthorne for all the Beaver, Cub and Scout leadership teams:

"Across 2020, I don't think they missed a single meeting in any of beavers / cubs / scouts. These efforts are on top of the Leaders having to manage their own lives and children over this period, which is no small feat. I thank my lucky stars that my children have had something else to work towards and other children to interact with over this period - I know that this has really helped them through this tough period, particularly not feeling so isolated and that all the activities they would ordinarily do were "lost". Some weeks they spent longer online with Scouts than they did with their classmates. It has been amazing to keep the weekly routine of scout meetings, and my children have really looked forward to it - both online and face to face."

Please let us know what your Sections or Group have been up to recently. And if you have a young person or Leader who deserves a special shout out then send the information to Graeme at dc@southberksscouts.uk



Scouting in January

We will be restricted to remote Scouting for some weeks to come. However, there are some great activity ideas and fun to be had by looking on the Scouting website:

[Scouts at Home](#)

Piggyback Meetings

If you are unsure still about running an online meeting, then have a word with your sectional ADC who can support you and possibly hook you up with another section, where you can jump on the back of one or two of their meetings.

Adult Appointment Chair

I am delighted to announce that Peter Forbes will be taking on the role of Chair of the Adult Appointments Panel (formerly known as the AAC). Peter has tremendous experience and enthusiasm for Scouting and will be a great asset when welcoming new adults to Scouting.

Earleywood Vacancy

The Earleywood Management Board (EMB) is looking for a new Minutes Secretary. The EMB meet 4 times a year to administer the Camp and Activity Centre. The Minutes Secretary is responsible for keeping a record of what is discussed and agreed. This is key to ensuring good governance is maintained in the provision of the great services that Earleywood is able to provide.

Please contact me, Graeme, if you are interested.