



South Berkshire District Newsletter

At Long Last...Here We Go!

Well done to you all for being so patient. However, the fantastic news is that we can start back with face-to-face Scouting, albeit with some restrictions still (Covid Risk Assessments to be followed and outdoors only), but that shouldn't stop us from enjoying ourselves safely with great activities and adventure again for all our young people.

There is some useful information in this edition about Activity Risk Assessments, and another youth led activity from our Youth Commissioners, Megan and Greg. Also, a working party has been busy down at Earleywood getting the mini golf course ready for all weather use.

Whilst I have very much enjoyed meeting many of you via Zoom calls, I am so much looking forward to seeing 'real' people again. Therefore, I hope that both myself and members of the District Team will call in from time to time (at a Distance of course) over the Summer Term to say hi and see how you are getting on.

Please send me stories of the adventures you get up to, not just for my own curiosity but so that I can share these with others in the District. It is always so inspirational to see what is going on.

Have a Happy Easter and have fun.

Graeme
dc@southberksscouts.uk

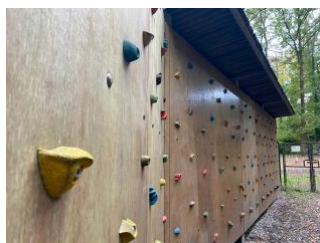
Merit Awards Presented

We are very pleased to announce that the following adults have been presented with their merit awards:

- Paul Adams, Gangshow – Award for Merit
- Louisa Adams, Gangshow - Chief Scout's Commendation for Good Service
- Anna Keen, 2nd Easthampstead - Chief Scout's Commendation for Good Service
- Mike Constantine, 2nd Easthampstead - Chief Scout's Commendation for Good Service
- Tom Ross, 1st St Sebastians - Chief Scout's Commendation for Good Service
- Caroline Scott, 1st St Sebastians - Chief Scout's Commendation for Good Service

Congratulations and very well done.

Even More at Earleywood – Your local Activity Centre



Why not consider booking Earleywood for your woodland activities. There is now mini golf and, just for 2021, they have the bouldering wall as a separate activity, plus great orienteering trails.



There is no deposit needed for 2021 so if the guidance changes, then you can change your booking. Due to easy cancellations our availability can also rapidly change. Follow this link to the web page - [Earleywood Home Page](#)

A Youth Led Activity – from our Youth Commissioners

Activity – Pointless Length – 10 – 30 minutes
Activity for – All sections What you'll need - paper and pen/ pencil

1. Based on the TV show pointless give your young people 100 seconds to write down as many Activities as possible that they enjoy doing as part of Scouting.
2. When the time is up, ask each young person in turn to name an activity they think won't be on anyone else's list.
3. The winners are those that pick an activity that either isn't on anyone else's list or is on the fewest lists.

This will give you some quick feedback on activities as those on the lists will be the favoured activities and those that the young people guess are pointless will be the activities that aren't enjoyed so much. It can be adapted for other themes as well.

Please let us know what your Sections or Group are getting up to. Just send a sentence or two to Graeme at dc@southberksscouts.uk. Plus a photo would even better.



From the 29th March we can resume face to face scouting!

This means: Section meetings can take place outdoors only. No residential activities yet.

Maximum group size:
Activities involving young people: no limit on group size but remain as only one section meeting independently of others.

Risk Assessments. Help!

As you will all be aware now, the Scout Association has mandated that **ALL** activities undertaken by young people now require a written risk assessment to be produced and made available. This is to ensure the safety of everyone involved.

Clearly, if you repeat an activity then you can re-use the original risk assessment. So you only need to draft one per activity type.

There is very good guidance on the Scout website as to how to complete these and there is even a suggested template. You can follow this link to see this information.

[TSA Risk Assessments](#)

These risk assessments do not need approval by District (unless they are for an away from HQ activity). However, your GSL does need to know that you have risk assessments in place.

Finally, District will collate all risk assessments sent to it and will make them available on the District website as useful examples to assist others.

Vacancies at Earleywood

Do you know someone who might be interested in one of the following roles:

- Marketing Director
- Minutes Secretary
- Site Host
- Fundraiser

Contact Graeme for more information.