



## Haslemere District

### October Twiglets 2006

*DC's News Roundup - Breaking News & Reminders – Steve Thames, DC*

#### Diary Dates

28 <sup>th</sup> Oct Scout Leaders Training Mod 5-9 (excluding special needs)	12 <sup>th</sup> Nov Scouting Skills & Young Leader Training
29 <sup>th</sup> Oct Scout Leaders Training Mod 14 & 15 (including special needs)	25 <sup>th</sup> Nov Scout Leaders Training Mod 12 & 17
4/5 Nov Cub Training Course B, Part 2	26 <sup>th</sup> Nov Scout Leaders Training Mod 11, 13, & 19
11 <sup>th</sup> Nov Young Leader Training (Practical Skills)	May 2007 Combined District Centenary Camp

#### District AGM – held on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September at Garners Field Campsite HQ.

*The following notes are a précis of the meeting. A full account can be read from the minutes of the meeting, available on request from the District Secretary.*

#### Annual Report 2006 (for the year ending April 2006)

##### Chairman's Report

Executive members –

Chairman	Doug Bennett – continuing to stand for the year 2006/7
Treasurer	Position Vacant
Secretary	Margaret Keen – continuing to stand for the year 2006/7
Appointments Secretary	Chris Stemp – stood down at this AGM, with a “hand over” period not to extend beyond 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2006. No current replacement, the position is therefore vacant.
Badge Secretary	Keith Clayton – continuing to stand for the year 2006/7
Nominated Member	ACC-Centenary & District Activity Advisor; Miss. Sue Mitchell – continuing to stand for the year 2006/7

##### Treasurers Report

The District aims to maintain a balance figure annually, so that it is possible to provide emergency support to any Group. However, as the accounts only show a “snap-shot” the balance often appears to show a different story. This year the account appears to have an additional surplus of £3,000, but this is mainly due to the collection & payment dates for money for the District Explorers Swiss Activity Camp, held in August this year (2006). An overview of the figures is shown below:

	Receipts	Payments	Assets & Liabilities due in 12 months
Membership Subscriptions	£14395	(£10037)	COIF Deposit Fund £15500
Investment, donations, & Gift Aid	£2594		Bank & cash £6144
Badges	£544	(£449)	Explorer Swiss Camp (£3070)
Training	£42	(£285)	
Activities	£8062	(£7471)	
Administration		(£1185)	
Other		(£902)	

For a full explanation please refer to the full account statement, available from the District Treasurer

#### District Aims & Objectives

##### Year 2005-06:

- Find someone to run the district web site
- Start to promote the 2007 World Jamboree
- Begin preparations for the Centenary Celebrations.

##### Year 2006-07:

- Ensure that all Groups fully adopt the new co-education policy for membership.
- Send a group to join the Surrey contingent for the World Jamboree.

##### Year 2007-08:

- (no plans currently ratified)



**Haslemere District Scouts** (Registered Charity Number: 305761)

**District Commissioner: Stephen Thames**, Welbeck Cottage, Glayshers Hill, Headley, Hampshire, GU35 8AQ.

**Tel** 01428 713096 or 07876 268852 **e-mail** dc@haslemeredistrictscouts.org.uk **web** www.haslemeredistrictscouts.org.uk

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### Achieved Targets

- District Web Site – John Edser (Grayshott) originally set up the web site in 2005 and functioned as Web Master until very recently. Paul Clement (Explorers) is now managing the site.
- Promotion of the 2007 World Jamboree has resulted in 4 Haslemere District Scouts joining the County Contingents for the Jamboree.
- Co-operation between Godalming, Farnham, & Haslemere Districts has resulted in the initial preparation of a combined Centenary Camp in May 2007.
- All Groups are aware of, and have either already adopted the new co-education policy of the Association, or will formally adopt it in 2007.

### District Report - Outstanding Aims & Objectives (from this and previous years)

- Re-start the Scout Fellowship – is continuing to be a very difficult objective. Retiring Leaders are still so busy that they have simply refused to become involved in the organisation of the Section, although most said that they would like to be contacted regarding any social activities that get organised.
- Other priorities have overshadowed further expansion of the District list of badge examiners - the list exists, but with only 2 examiners.
- Expanding the calendar for District events has continued to be very difficult, especially as the District Team has not been expanded. Even the Scout section that had previously organised some events themselves found it difficult to organise additional events this year.
- Recruit ADC's for all sections without compromising Group leadership levels - All sections still remain critically short of skilled & trained Leaders, so it has not been possible to recruit from this area.
- No one from the District attended the 2005 European Jamboree.

### District Report - Steve Thames District Commissioner

Numerically the District youth has reduced a little since last year, from 309 to 298, but the Leader/Helper numbers increased from 58 to 61. However, many of the new leaders that have joined or replaced retiring leaders are not able to make "full time" commitments to their sections (some only one week in 3). I must again congratulate those stalwart Leaders who continue to make their sections a fun, vibrant & exciting place for the children.

The lack of a full District Leader team continue to make it difficult to really ensure that all the sections are operating at their full potential. It has not been possible to organise any additional District Activities.

This problem is going to persist for the foreseeable future, as there is a constant recruiting requirement for Leaders.

Although the District Executive operated at a reduced strength it did manage the workload remarkably well. We are still without a Treasurer (2 years now) with Doug Bennett (District Chairman) continuing to look after the accounts. Chris Stemp, our Appointments Secretary has been wanting to step down for the last couple of years, but so far we have been able to persuade him to stay a little longer.

### District Events

June 05	Scoutabout
February 06	Swimming Gala
April 06	St. George's Day Parade

### District Support

- The newsletter "Branching Out" was not published in 2005/6 due to lack of articles. It would normally publish entries from any member of the District.
- Publication of "Twiglets", the DC's information sheet has continued. This document is published most months and aims to keep Leaders up to date with the latest District, County, & National information.
- The District is still fully supporting all the training requirements of Leaders, and where possible, arranging for courses to be run.
- The District support transport arrangements for major County activities, this year (2005/6) it was Scoutabout.
- Although no Group has yet taken up the offer, the District will fully support any team attending a County competition.
- First Response First Aid Courses. To ensure that all Leaders in the District maintain their first aid skills regular "First Response" courses are regularly held in the District.
- The District hold funds for supporting Groups in emergency or unplanned occurrences, so that Scouting may be continued without interruption.
- The District accumulates funds to sponsor children to attend World Jamborees, which only occur every 4<sup>th</sup> year. We are sending 4 children to represent the District at the UK Jamboree in 2007.
- All training costs are reimbursed after completion of an appropriate course.



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D.C. 09/10/06



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## **Section Reports 2005/6**

### **Beavers - (no ADC)**

All Colonies are managing to progress satisfactorily, despite being without a District Leader. It is very difficult to arrange meetings with the current Leaders due to their many & various family commitments during the rest of the week. Camelsdale are about to start Colony (Easter 2006). There continues to be fewer places than applicants, but because of the continued lack of adults opening additional Colonies does not appear possible.

### **Cub Scout Report May 2005 to April 2006 - ADC Isobel Clement (summary of full report)**

It was a busy year for our Cub Scouts with many varied and interesting activities planned by the Cub Leaders. These included visits from the Wildlife people at Hydestile, a visit from a police dog, a Picnic in Petworth Park, a visit to an Ice Hockey Match, Duck racing, a Womble Walk, Archery, Canoeing, a night Hike on Marley Common, pottery and a Martial Arts evening. More skills type activities included technology evenings, cookery, DIY skills and working towards scientist badges,

A number of Packs have been working on recruitment and making themselves more visible in the community. Camelsdale & Churt in particular have been trying very hard to attract new Cubs as numbers were falling despite a very full programme of activities.

A number of camps have been run these include the following:

- A joint Camelsdale & Haslemere backwoods Camp
- Camelsdale also camped at their own site and visited Paultons Park for the day.
- Haslemere camped at Yapton.
- Churt camped at Bentley Copse
- Femhurst camped at Blacklands Farm

In July we held the Muir trophy. The teams had an activity hike and had to get around the route and complete activities such as lighting a fire, knot tying, a quiz, a first aid incident, moving car tyres with canes and retrieving a Ping-Pong ball from a tube. We also chanced our luck by giving them all a raw egg to look after on the way around. Thanks to the Leaders who helped on the day and in particular Liz Codd for organising the route etc. Also thanks goes to some of our Young Leaders who came and helped some of the teams round the course.

Packs took part in the District Swimming Gala in February.

In March we held our first ever ready Steady Cook Competition. This was a surprising success. I say surprising because we were amazed by just how well the Cubs that took part did. The winners were Chiddingfold who had not only prepared and served a very impressive two course meal all by themselves with no help from their Leader, but who had also made a tablecloth and napkins decorated with scout logos and menu and name cards to match which they used to beautifully present their meal.

This report should of course end in April but as we are now in September we really must mention Scram, which the District attended again this June. A brilliant day enjoyed by all, which I'm sure you will hear more about in next year's report.

### **Scouts - (no ADC)**

All Troops have held various camps, from "simple" overnight stops to weeklong activity camps. Some Groups are reporting difficulties in organising activities outside of normal meeting times (e.g. weekends) because the children have so many other activities to attend. Otherwise the Troops are achieving good all round standards.

### **Explorers - DESC David Campbell (summary of full report)**

Another good year! Explorer Scouting is now 4 years old and all the original members' numbers are still increasing though, thanks to the hard work of creating a program that keeps all our Explorers interested.

Numbers at the census in January census time were 54 Explorers (34 male 18 female) and 9 Leaders

What the census doesn't show is that during the year 18 original members and over 17's and 11 others left Explorers, which means 31 new members have started. Thank you to all the Scout and Guide **leaders** in the area for supplying new members.

We now have four units - Hindhead, Grayshott, Chiddingfold and Camelsdale (Pegasus). The new unit at Grayshott opened in January.

The additional leader this year is at Grayshott - Ed Whittaker who has been in scouting for many years in numerous roles mainly in the Godalming area.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is still popular with 13 explorers on the Bronze Award and 10 on the Silver Award. Regular training evenings and expeditions are held throughout the year. We have had 2 completing their Bronze Award this year and 4 their Silver. There seems to be a lot of explorers on the verge of completion of their Bronze or Silver awards.



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### Other Business

The District Commissioner, Stephen Thames, made the following announcements;

- Isobel has formally tendered her resignation as of this meeting (i.e. 30<sup>th</sup> September). She has however agreed to continue in the role until December 31<sup>st</sup> 2006 to complete her outstanding obligations as Training Advisor, and to offer a "hand over" period for her successor.
- Some time ago I notified the County Commissioner that I intended to stand down at the end of this year.

I took up the position of District Commissioner for Haslemere District in January 2001, so at the end of this year (2006) I will have had responsibility for the District for 5 years.

It is with some disappointment and concern that I am stepping down as District Commissioner whilst the District team is so depleted. I have tried to maintain and increase the number of Leaders in the District to no avail, and have been under supported in many other areas. I have also sought support from neighboring Districts, but with limited success. A number of District & County events have been poorly supported by Groups which resulted in either cancellation of the event or a heavy workload for those that did volunteer, the most recent of these being the Scout Shooting Competition and the District Family Camp.

It has become apparent that the Groups within the District are able and even want to be autonomous and are not interested in participating in District or County events.

Recent changes to my personal circumstances resulting in additional work responsibilities and sporadic work patterns I am unable to devote the time necessary to bring the District Team and Leader numbers to a more effective level, and to encourage and promote District & County activities.

I hope that the new District Commissioner and Executive will find the changes & systems I have put into place useful, and I wish Haslemere District and you all, every success for the future.

The meeting closed at 9:00 p.m.

### Join-In-Centenary Scarves and Badges

You've probably read about these in the July edition of Scouting Magazine, and the best way to order them is from our Badge Secretary, Keith Clayton, so you can get reduced prices for all orders received before 31st October. To take advantage of this offer, please make sure he has all your orders as soon as possible.

Don't forget that Keith also has a small stock of "Twenty Years of Beavers" and "Ninety Years of Cubs" uniform badges for those who would still like some. He can order more if required.

Remember, if you are planning to present lots of new badges for investitures this autumn.... or new Sixers or PLs.....or batches of activity badges for activities that have taken place during the summer..... please let Keith as soon as possible, so that you can be sure to have them ready for when you need them.

You can email Keith at [keith.clayton@talk21.com](mailto:keith.clayton@talk21.com)

### Data Check

Thanks to all of you that have returned the forms. If you have not yet returned it please do it very soon. There's no excuse; I even sent you a stamped envelope to post it back! This information will allow me to publish a correct District Directory and arrange for suitable training courses to be set up.

### 2007 Jamboree Participants

For your information the following Scouts have been chosen to represent Haslemere District at the 2007 Centenary Jamboree in the UK. Please give them your full support, and I'm sure they will be happy to visit your Sections after the event to tell you all about it.

Jamie Short – Camelsdale Explorers  
Dominic Westcott-White – Camelsdale Explorers  
Daniel Williams – Haslemere Scouts  
Joseph Perkins – Haslemere Scouts



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### S.C.U.B. – 2007 Jamboree

As many of you are aware by now from our article in the last issue of the Surrey Scout that SCUB are looking forward to our trip to next years Jamboree. Since you heard from us last we have been busy getting ourselves organised and have designed a badge and are also in the process of launching a range of clothing items to help raise funds for the contingent. Order forms are available on our web site at [www.surrey-scouts.org.uk/jamboree2007/unit-b/index.htm](http://www.surrey-scouts.org.uk/jamboree2007/unit-b/index.htm) . For those of you that don't have access to the Internet or are unable to make the AGM please contact any member of the Unit and they will be able to give you a copy.



### Scout Leader has Mid Life Crisis

Camelsdale scout leader Peter Callender is coming to that age where you go out and buy a sports car or a motorbike. But no, after 18 years in scouting, seeing scouts go of to all corners of the globe on amazing worldwide camps, Pete is trying to go one better. He has enrolled to the **British Heart Foundation World Experiences Everest Base Camp Trek**. This exciting trek in the Everest region will give him the opportunity to fulfil a dream, while taking in some of the most breathtaking scenery in the Himalayas. The trip will be for sixteen days and over 40 people from all over the country will be taking part. If you would like to sponsor Peter you can at [www.bhf.org.uk/sponsor/petercallender](http://www.bhf.org.uk/sponsor/petercallender) or pop into *Kaighin and Daughter Butchers* in Grayshott where Peter works.

Peter is trying to raise as much money as possible for the BHF's fight against heart and circulatory disease- the UK's biggest killer. Peter has already raised £1830 from the BBQ held recently at the Royal Oak so he is well on his way to reach his target of £3000. Thanks again for all your help and support.

Peter has started his training with cycling every day to work. He hopes nearer the time to try some long walks. He thinks that a high level of fitness will help him through this most difficult challenge of his life.

Peter Callender

Flat 4, The Square, Grayshott, Hindhead, Surrey, GU26 6LQ - Tel 0772 4899231

### Baldies at Grayshott Scout Group

Leaders will be having their HEADS SHAVED (!) by a team from BLUE HAIRWORKS in aid of CANCER RESEARCH UK on Saturday 28<sup>TH</sup> October in The Square, Grayshott at 11 a.m.

Sponsor forms are available at Kaighins' Butchers, Grayshott Pharmacy, The Post Office & Grayshott Books or call Jo Edser on 01428 609439



### First Aid – First Response Courses

There is a course on 4<sup>th</sup> June, and further courses will be arranged to suit you. Please let Mrs. Carol Spicket 01428 607222 or [cspick@fsmail.net](mailto:cspick@fsmail.net) the best day & time for you so a course can be arranged. Please note that you will be asked to pay for the course when booking. You will be fully reimbursed on completion.

*Remember, as a Warranted Leader, you are required to hold a valid First Aid Certificate.*

*Any information to be included in the November copy of Twiglets should reach the D.C. before 20<sup>th</sup> October 2006.*



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