



## Haslemere District

### November Twiglets 2006

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

#### Diary Dates

4/5 Nov	Cub Training Course B, Part 2	18 <sup>th</sup> March	County Scout Cyclocross
11 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Young Leader Training (Practical Skills)	18/20 May	Scout Expedition Challenge
12 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Scouting Skills & Young Leader Training	May 2007	District Centenary Camp
25 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Scout Leaders Training Mod 12 & 17	1 <sup>st</sup> July	CSA Gold Award Presentations
26 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Scout Leaders Training Mod 11, 13, & 19	3 <sup>rd</sup> July	County Scout Team Meeting
20 <sup>th</sup> Feb	County Scout Team Meeting	6/8 July	Scout Camping Challenge
		7 <sup>th</sup> July	Scout Cooking Challenge
		16 <sup>th</sup> Oct	County Scout Team Meeting
		10 <sup>th</sup> Nov	CSA Gold Award Presentations

#### Growing the Movement - Flexible Delivery of Scouting (Richard Shortman, County Commissioner)

What do you do when a Scout Group is struggling to deliver effective scouting?

What follows is a summary of a workshop held at the National Scout Conference at Warwick University in September 2006 that set out to explore different ways to use available leader expertise and availability.

There is food for thought here, particularly if the alternatives are approached with a positive "can do" attitude. All too often, so we were told, radical solutions are very often met with a set of reasons as to why the proposal won't work before identifying the circumstances under which it just might work and exploring those.

So, before reading on, dismiss all negative thoughts from your mind!! Leaders from different sections do talk to one another and may well consider co-operating & working together etc!!

#### **Sections that don't meet every week**

There were a number of different ways that this has been approached to maximise limited leader resource. Basic principle is that you can increase quality by reducing quantity.

1. **Large numbers:** split into two and run the same programme two weeks running with half the young people at each.

Advantages:

- better quality scouting
- half the programme planning!

2. **Two different sections (BS & CS or CS & S):** Alternate the sections each week and both section's leaders help each other run each others meetings (BSL acts as ACSL etc)

Advantages:

- better quality scouting
- positive co-operation between sections
- a lot less leakage of young people as leader(s) of next section already known
- leaders get great insight into how another section works
- possibility of taking in more young people if either or both sections small

3. **Two Colonies, Packs or Troops:** basically the same advantages as 1 above but with the added concept of inter-group co-operation! (scary or long overdue?)



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**Sections that meet with other sections** – where both numbers of adults and young people are small

1. **Joint Programme, adapted activities:** This has worked with 2 small sections (CS & S), split into sectional groups for some section-specific activities and other activities being adapted for the larger age range.

Advantages:

- Young people still getting quality scouting
- leaders get great insight into how another section works
- Virtually no drop-out as the cubs could actually see the progression and knew the leaders
- More imaginative implementation of the programme

2. **Overlapping Sections:** The example here was between BS and CS with the same leaders. The BS met for half an hour on their own, they were joined by the CS for half an hour and then went home and the CS had an hour on their own. You could obviously vary the timings.

Advantages: pretty well the same as 1 above. Whichever implementation works will depend on local and leader circumstances (and a bit of trial and error?)

**Sections that meet at the Weekend:**

1. **One full Sat/Sun per month, one section after another:** This is running “normal length” Colony, Pack and Troop meetings (with a bit of a rest for the leaders and helpers in between!!) all on one day. One suggestion made for keeping in touch the rest of the time was by utilising modern technology and having the odd web-based virtual meeting to set projects, chat etc.

Advantages:

- Maximum concentration of scarce leader resources
- Leaders get practical insight into how other sections work
- Greatly reduces leakage between sections as everyone meets on the same day

2. **Beaver Colonies and Cub Packs:** Enables leaders to get to meetings without the weekday time pressure of getting home from work late etc (helps mum go shopping!?)

**Sections that meet for a different length of time:**

1. **One full Sat/Sun per month:** The example here was a troop meeting all day (no specific length but I guess 10.00 – 16.00. If the circumstances fitted then it could apply to any section.

Advantages:

- Main one was the increase in the ability to complete projects in one hit rather than over a period of a few weeks without constant revision(!), so better quality scouting.
- Maximum concentration of scarce leader resources

2. **Longer Sectional meeting split into two:** not necessarily at the weekend but ..... The idea is to run the same meeting twice for different young people but with the same leaders. Possibly not a long-term solution but could buy time to draw in other help.

You may well come up with other ideas, remember anything is possible!

Richard Shortman, County Commissioner

**The no-nonsense parents’ guide to Scouting** (Natalie Tomlinson, Head of Marketing, The Scout Association)

The *no-nonsense parents’ guide to Scouting* (in association with St Ivel) was introduced to the Movement at the 2006 National Conference and is a brilliant new resource to help Leaders engage parents and encourage them to get involved with Scouting. The resource contains a six-page folder for parents, which includes important information about Scouting, contact details, volunteering information and most importantly a form for them to record their skills and time availability. The resources are supplied in packs of eight, and each pack is also accompanied by a Leaders’ guide, which contains tips and ideas on how to use the resource, and a CD packed with useful templates, contact forms and case studies.



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At the end of October, the 14,000 Beaver and Cub Leaders on our database will be receiving a free pack of eight resources with an accompanying Leaders' guide and CD. Please make use of the resources. The *no-nonsense parents' guide to Scouting* will also be available from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2006 to everyone involved in Scouting. These cost just £4 (including postage and packing) for a pack of eight. Order them from the Scout Information Centre catalogue at [www.scouts.org.uk/scoutbase](http://www.scouts.org.uk/scoutbase) or call 0845 300 1818.

You may also wish to visit the new web site for parents — [www.scouts.org.uk/oarents](http://www.scouts.org.uk/oarents) which is packed full of information about Scouting, an A-Z of Scouting terms and case studies about volunteering.

**Want to Join?** (Natalie Tomlinson, Head of Marketing, The Scout Association)

The second important project, which has involved people from a number of different departments, has been to update the joining process. At present, there are three main results that may have an impact on the way you manage joining enquiries in your District.

Firstly, brand new web pages have been developed — [www.scouts.org.uk/join](http://www.scouts.org.uk/join). These web pages are an important source of relevant, up to date and concise information for adults and young people who are interested in joining, and also offer the opportunity for an online enquiry form to be completed.

In addition, all adults or young people who contact the Scout Information Centre or complete an online form to enquire about joining will now be automatically sent a postcard within a few days. This postcard, which will be tailored to their age, will thank them for their enquiry, and will inform them briefly of the processes that are taking place to put them in touch with the right Scouting representative in their area. We feel this postcard is a simple way to solve some of the problems of enquirers feeling lost or forgotten since they have contacted us. It will also make the process of joining clearer and less confusing for enquirers.

Finally, changes have been made to the process of informing Districts about people wishing to join in their area. When a prospective Member completes the online form or calls the Information Centre they are given the details of the District Commissioner(s) that cover their post code area'. They will then be sent a confirmation email and their details will automatically be sent to the relevant DC(s). DC's can then contact them directly or will be better prepared if they receive a call from the prospective Member.

In the October/November issue of Scouting magazine's Focus supplement, an article on pages 12-13 (this can also be seen online at [www.scouts.org.uk/magazine](http://www.scouts.org.uk/magazine)) highlighted the launch of a new 0845 telephone number service that is available for charities. After registering for the service, Scout Groups have the use of a free 0845 number that could be turned into a recruitment hotline. The number could become the designated contact number for all joining enquiries within your District and calls could be dealt with by someone whose role is specifically focused on recruitment. The 0845 number could become the standard phone number to promote at events and on recruitment literature, so even if your District team changes, your leaflets and posters won't need reprinting.

This is just an example of the many ways that you could re-organise your management of joining enquiries to make things easier for both yourself, volunteers in your District or County and people who enquire. By appointing a designated 'want to join' manager in your District or County (perhaps a parent could do this job!) the process may run more smoothly, and in a more coherent way.



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### **Scout Leaders Mid-Life Crisis**

Camelsdale scout leader Peter Callender 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. He has enrolled to the **British Heart Foundation World Experiences Everest Base Camp Trek**. 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.

Thanks again for all your help and support.

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

### **Baldies at Grayshott Scout Group**

By the time you read this there will be some bald headed Leaders around Grayshott!!

They had 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.



I hope to be able to tell you how they got on in the December Twiglets.

### **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> November 2006.*



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