



# EAST SURREY DISTRICT SCOUTS

Registered Charity No. 1032242. A Member of Tandridge Voluntary Service Council

District Commissioner – Nick Hough,

Tel. 07851 001940 or 01883 371935 e-mail [dc@eastsurreydistrictscouts.org.uk](mailto:dc@eastsurreydistrictscouts.org.uk)

## District briefing – January 2017 – HAPPY NEW YEAR

Greetings to you all. There are three BIG issues I need you to look at in January:

### 1) CENSUS

Please submit your Group's information in a correct and timely way – **before 31<sup>st</sup> January**

Any questions on the census, please get back to me or the District Secretary Malcolm Kirk.

### 2) PROGRAMMES

Please get your winter term programmes to Christine (Beavers), Karen (Cubs) and myself (Scouts) **before Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January**. In particular, as DC I need to be informed when you are off-site. Copy me on everything.

### 3) DC Visits

I should like to be welcome to visit every section in every Group and meet or speak with members of the Executive at every Group before Easter (Beavers may be tricky). **Please do contact me to let me know when I should come along to meetings and/or to your Group Executive committees.**

We are pleased to announce that we have identified a new **District Treasurer**. **Mr. Chris Bell** is a Chartered Accountant and a former Scout himself, and is the son of District Explorer leader Amanda Doran. It will be necessary to elect him at an **Extraordinary General Meeting** of the District Scout Council. This will take place on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January at the Mill Lane building in Hurst Green.

All are welcome; these proceedings will only take about 3 minutes and will be followed by the District team meeting, which is open on this occasion to GSLs, Group Contacts, Section leaders Executive committee members and others.

**District Explorers** are going great guns led by Mandy Doran, assisted by Paul D'Alessandro, Larnie Butler and Ben Miller, and Tony Pearson looking after Young Leaders. Explorer Scouts, whether or not they are also doing service as Young Leaders, will need to start paying subscriptions appropriate to the cost of Explorer activities. We expect these subscriptions to be £48/term (including Capitation Fee).

### Dates:

Cub leaders dinner – 6<sup>th</sup> January 2017, Croydon

**District EGM – 1930 Weds 11<sup>th</sup> January 2017, Mill Lane**

District Team meeting – 1940, Weds 11<sup>th</sup> Jan, Mill Lane

**CUB** leaders meeting Thurs 12<sup>th</sup> January, Burstow

Panto (Cubs/Beavers) – 13<sup>th</sup> January 2017, Oxted

Oxted Working party/lunch and learn – 14<sup>th</sup> Jan, 1000-1500

**BEAVER** leaders meeting Thurs 19<sup>th</sup> Jan, venue TBD

**SCOUT** leaders meeting Weds 1<sup>st</sup> Feb, venue TBD

Tatsfield Quiz night 4<sup>th</sup> February

Young leader training - 5<sup>th</sup> February, Oxted hut

District Exec – 15<sup>th</sup> February 2017, Mill Lane

**Colditz (Scouts)** – 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> March 2017, Oxted School

County Forum for Administrators 25<sup>th</sup> March

Oxted Quiz night 25<sup>th</sup> March

St George's Day Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April (TBC)

District Cub Camp 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> May

District Exec Weds 17<sup>th</sup> May

County Beaver camp 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> May

Oxted Bike Sale 20<sup>th</sup> May

Lagham Quiz Night 20<sup>th</sup> May

Young Leader training 21<sup>st</sup> May

**Training and admin:** I am subject to the same POR requirements as everyone else, and I have to do certain modules, and have them validated, before I can validate modules and approve training in COMPASS. There is a massive learning curve for some leaders, some of whom are unwilling to engage with "paperwork" and administration at all, some who think it is someone else's problem, and others who are just not yet able to do it with confidence. In the post-Hurst Green world, to escape a similar fate, we all need to ensure that our admin and "paperwork" is done properly. It is part of modern youth work and there is no escaping that – what we can do is make as easy and as straightforward as possible. I want to be able to offer training and instruction in OSM and in COMPASS, to those who need it, and help you with this basic – but sometimes daunting - stuff.

**Scout Shop:** I will be available for a chat at the Lagham HQ Saturdays 10-12 4<sup>th</sup> Feb, 25<sup>th</sup> Feb, 11<sup>th</sup> March.



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### DISTRICT SWOT – Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats

These are my notes from the most recent District Executive and are for your information. Do please send in your thoughts. You will in due course find yourself doing similar exercises for your own Groups and even your own Sections. The thing for us now is to pick **three or four** weaknesses or threats, on which we can focus our efforts in repair, and also to move forward swiftly by concentrating on **a few** key strengths and opportunities.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Strengths</b></p> <p>Cubs ADC Cubs Enthusiasm of young people Explorers and Young Leaders Turn out – good youth attendance <b>Good programmes</b> Good leaders Structure – basics. Backbone, is in place Village groups - community</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Weaknesses</b></p> <p>HUGE spread out District No “town centre” as such <b>Lack of people in certain key roles</b> District Executive Lack of fund-raising <b>Poor communication</b> <b>Weak web page</b> Insular – we keep to ourselves – as a District AND as Groups Not enough sharing of ideas</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Opportunities</b></p> <p><b>Explorers and Young Leaders – building the future</b> Create a good District website Social media, better communications Groups working together better Timing of meetings and venues of meetings Joint activities between Groups More District events</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Threats</b></p> <p>Poor communication <b>Lack of people</b> Exhaustion and burnout Lack of continuity / changes to POR Poor teamwork People not getting basic training done</p>