

# Liverpool South *Scouting News*

Sep – Oct 2017

## From the DC

**Around the District** Since our last issue there has been so much happening and I've been delighted to be invited to take part in following events, often taking the opportunity to present awards to our adults.

Toxteth Salaam welcomed a Scout Troop to join their Beaver and Cub Sections in the Group in May. In June 6th Allerton held a very successful Open Day, 25th Picton held their AGM, we held our District AGM and 33rd Allerton held a BBQ.

In July there was 13th Allerton AGM and Fundraiser, 1st Allerton AGM, and following the relaunch of 9th Halewood Troop their first Scouts and new Leaders were invested.

At the end of July I visited Toxteth Salaam at MSF International Jamboree at Kibblestone Scout Camp and in August I visited 9th Halewood Troop on their first camp at Dunham Massey and 33rd Allerton Group at Kingswood Colomendy.

In September Rocket, Vale and some members of the YL Unit were at the Moot at Tawd Vale. The 9th Halewood and 4th Allerton held their AGMs, Toxteth Salaam held their Eid Party at Jungle Fun in Belle Vale and the following night I took part in my first ever Beaver Sleepover with the Colony at 25th Allerton! Also in September we held the first District Skills Training Day for our leaders to brush up on basic scouting skills.

I take this opportunity to say thanks to those of you who have made me so welcome at these events and who have made me feel part of the fun and excitement being enjoyed by our Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. In a welcome break from the paperwork that is a large part of the DC role. it's great to join leaders interacting with the kids at these events and not just meet with leaders in adult meetings. It also allows me to be able to thank our leaders and some of the Group Executive members when I present Wood Badges and Service Awards. Thankyou all.

**International** Brilliant Ambassadors for Liverpool South have been Aardvark Explorers, on their trip to Poland and 25th Picton Group, who visited Dublin. Great to see our members experiencing other countries as part of their scout adventures.

**Welcome to 2 new GSLs** We are pleased to announce the appointment of Mark Goodall, 6th Allerton and Martin Sidaway, 25th Allerton. We hope you'll enjoy this important role you will provide to your Groups.

**Young Leaders** All Young Leaders from all the Scout Groups (even those who are members of other Explorer Units) are invited to a relaunch of the District Young Leader Unit on November 4th. This first meeting will be at 2nd Allerton HQ, Clearview, Kylesmore Avenue, Off Rose Lane, Liverpool, L18 3LB and those who come along will be able to help to shape the way forward for this unit, including how often you want to meet, where you want to meet (maybe take turns hosting around the HQs in the District), the sort of activities you would like offered (social and fun events in addition to any training) and any other ideas you may have.

We have YL badges to present. to those who have already completed Module A, and Module A training

will be provided for those who have yet to complete it. Further Modules will also be offered to those with Module A.

We are also looking for young adults to form a leadership team for this Unit, to work with these 14 – 18 year olds and complement the volunteers who currently provide the training for these young people. This is a fantastic opportunity, especially for anyone who was a YL not that many years ago, to be able to engage with the next generation of YLs and ultimately help to shape our leadership of the future!

**WSJ 2019** Congratulations to Alex Carroll who has been selected as the Merseyside Contingency Leader for the 24th World Scout Jamboree in North America, 22 July to 2 August 2019.

The 24th World Scout Jamboree will be an adventure beyond anything you can imagine! It will be jointly hosted by the Boy Scouts of America, Scouts Canada and the Scout Association of Mexico.

The Jamboree will take place at the Summit Bechtel Family National Scout Reserve in West Virginia, USA.

Liverpool South District are inviting applications for 4 Scouts/Explorer Scouts/Young Leaders who were born between 22-07-2001 and 21-7-2005 to represent us as members of the Merseyside Unit.

**New Meeting Venue for District Leader Meetings** For several years we have enjoyed the warm hospitality from the Licensee of the Victoria Pub in Aigburth and this has been a popular venue with many of our leaders. We are so grateful for this hospitality including the free use of their function room, generous provision of free sandwiches, and allowing the District to host BBQs for leaders on occasions.

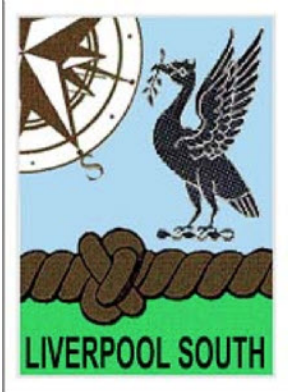
However, as Scouting in the UK develops its ethos of inclusivity and diversity it has been necessary to review our plans for section support meetings. Not only to allow an even wider attendance from all leaders, regardless of background but also to welcome our Young Leaders (14-18s) into these meetings.

We are currently trialling a venue kindly provided by the 33rd Allerton at St James Church Hall in Woolton. Our first meeting in September was attended by a good number of Beaver and Cub Section Leaders. The ADC Scouts was joined by 2 GSLs, the SASU Manager and myself but sadly not one Scout Leader attended. We gained some and lost some and although there has been some moaning about the change of venue we hope leaders can see the benefit of a more inclusive venue. We hope to see more of you at the October meeting when we'll be discussing a selection event for Jamboree 2019 hopefuls. For this purpose we would like to invite the Explorer Section leaders to join us.

The hall is large enough to host the separate sections and the kitchen facilities mean that tea and coffee is readily available. I also propose to reintroduce the GSL Forum to take a corner every quarter. We have several new GSLs so a forum to share ideas and problems would be a benefit particularly to them but also to keep longer established GSLs in touch with current developments and to share their experience. I suggest December, March, June and September.

Finally, the village of Woolton has many pubs, wine bars and restaurants for those adults who wish to socialise after the end of the meeting but if anyone has alternative suitable meeting venues to suggest we are open to other ideas. Speak to your ADCs or to me.

**Brenda Hope**



# Liverpool South *Scouting News*

Edition No 7 Sept/Oct 2017

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# Scouting News



## *Editors Note*

Hi everyone, welcome back after the summer break (summer? Did we get a summer? Seems to have rained for the last however many weeks!!)

Once again, I make an appeal for those groups who haven't contributed any items for this newsletter to make an effort to do so as we would like to hear from you as to the details of your groups and sections activities.

Please send news items in by the end of December for publication in January. Please send to :-

[gordon.scott31@btinternet.com](mailto:gordon.scott31@btinternet.com)





We want to unite all Liverpool South Young leaders

We can provide support and training

You can shape the future

Are you up for the challenge?



Come along to our re-launch of the Liverpool South Young leader unit and find out how you can shape your way to becoming a future leader.



You will also be able to do Module A if you have not already done it.

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November – 10.30 am – 1.30 pm

Clearview, Kylemore Avenue,

Off Rose Lane, Liverpool, L18 3LB

Drinks, donuts and muffins provided





# Scouting News



On Saturday 15th July the 13th Allerton Beaver Scouts travelled on all the Northern and Wirral Lines in one day as our 'Merseyrail Challenge'. This involved visiting Chester, Ellesmere Port, West Kirby, New Brighton, Southport, Ormskirk and Kirkby. We started off at Liverpool South Parkway at 9am and returned there at 6.40pm

Merseyrail were contacted and they were kind enough to pay for all of the train tickets and provide certificates to all Beavers who took part in this challenge.

Myself and Jane Stimpson [ABSL] organised the trip. We all enjoyed ice creams at West Kirby and chips in Southport!



The Beavers enjoyed this trip and were kept occupied with card games and quizzes.

Tim Green  
13th Allerton Beaver Scout Colony



# Scouting News



## New District Leaders Meetings venue

With huge thanks to The Victoria Pub in Aigburth L17 for the use of their function room these last few years and after discussions with Peter Oliver, County Commissioner for Merseyside Scouts, we have moved venue to St James' Church Hall, opp St James Church, Church Road South, Woolton L25 7RJ to trial a new and more inclusive meeting place. Indeed, it proved popular with the Beaver Scout leaders with sixteen attending the first meeting in the new venue, including a Young Leader. It was warm and welcoming and next month Tracey is making the Beaver leaders some cakes! Such

hospitality! Thanks to 33<sup>rd</sup> Allerton leaders Ben, Hannah and Vickie for arranging the tables and refreshments for us. Top topic at the Beaver Leaders table was how we

welcome new recruits and swim our Beavers up to Cub Scouts. Lots of welcoming all round! We'd love to welcome more leaders at our monthly District Leader meetings, whether you are a Beaver, Cub, Scout or Young Leader you'd be very welcome. Usually the second Tuesday of each month 8.30pm until 9.30pm.



## Jane Leadbetter ADC Beaver Scouts





# ***Scouting News***



## **Garston Park Taster Evenings**

Garston Park Scout Group need leaders! 'Don't we all!' I hear you say! But this group will close unless the present Beaver Scout section is supported by new leaders and Cubs and Scouts sections are introduced. The community supported Garston Park when it first began in 2014 by sending more than enough children to overflow a Beaver section with 6+ leaders going for training and involving themselves in district activities. But as each leader's child has grown to Cub Scouts age the leaders have left...until...they have all gone! With most of the district Beaver Scout colonies full with waiting lists and a sure need for Garston Park Scout Group to continue and grow, County were approached for help. This term there are three taster evenings arranged by Paul Coleman, a member of the County Growth Project Working Group. Would anyone be available to help, stand around in uniform, chat with folk etc, on any Monday evening from 6 - 7 pm?

We need help on Mondays during October and November. As much or as little as you can offer

:

Contact Jane Leadbetter ADC Beaver Scouts 07733 476229



# Scouting News



## 4th Allerton

June 2017

### Loch Etive trip voted 'the best ever'

**June's** trip to Ardchattan at Loch Etive, near Oban, Argyllshire was elected 'the best ever' .....despite indifferent weather.

Such acclamation resulted from the behaviour and conduct of the sea scouts themselves who supported the event with a display of enthusiasm, teamwork and general application valued by the leaders.

Nine sea scouts with a team of four leaders plus several adult supporters made the 350 mile trip to NW Scotland for a week long programme, a mix of traditional scoutcraft and water activities. On the menu was raft-building which tested their knowledge of knots and lashings, kayaking, boat-handling and sailing, and building an aerial runway.

A new activity was introduced by Peter Jones, converting lemonade bottles into water and air powered rockets using an airline and stirrup pump. A rocket design competition was won by Cameron Ward while the champion height achievement was captured by Marus Deaves.

#### **Awesome**

Driving overnight the troop arrived at Ardchattan at 6am and thanks to the enthusiasm of the scouts, camp was fully established by midday. Mind you, they were glad to turn in at 9pm that night. The snoring was awesome.

The weather was mixed: two excellent days, one really wet and the rest just grey. One of the excellent days was marked by our hosts, Gail and Archie Cameron who delivered several tubs of much appreciated ice cream to the site.

As is traditional with the 4<sup>th</sup> Allerton the camp routine was built around a 'camping competition' based on patrol team work, firelighting and cooking, tent pitching, patrol campcrafts, cleanliness and hygiene, patrol leadership and spirit. After a hearty cooked breakfast, the morning's Colours is followed by a 'Thought for the Day' by David Hope, prayers based on the seven Scout Laws, and then.....inspection by a duty scout leader.

The closely competed efforts resulted in a win for Port Watch led by SPL Cameron Ward with Starboard as runners-up.

There are no losers in the 4<sup>th</sup> Allerton! The winners all received prizes of stainless steel multi-tools which will serve them for many years to come while the SPL Cameron received a wristwatch and headtorch.

A crop of activity badges and awards resulted from the camp: seven Adventurous Activity Awards, nine Power Coxswain, several Canoeist Badges, two Junior Seaman, four Camper Badges, five Pioneer and a host of Nights Away badges.

#### **Veteran camper**

The troop's veteran sea scout camper, SPL Chris McCarthy, has never missed a camp since he joined the troop in 2013 and as a result has qualified for the maximum Nights Away award of 35 camper nights! In truth, he and the leaders are unsure of what his tally now is.

Visitors early in the week were 'old boys' of the troop Peter Grieve and Sean Connel, and Heswall sea scout leader Nev Twells, who, as powerboat enthusiasts, came 'to play' with their own powercraft

continued

# Scouting News



4th Allerton cont'd

A special thanks has been said to our hosts, Archie and Gail, who farm beef and sheep in the locality, it was Archie's dad who first welcomed us to Ardchattan almost 40 years ago. Archie has starred in a TV documentary series about Highland farming and a second series is currently being made.

The troop has been camping in the Oban area for more than 40 years and has developed good friendships with local scout personalities including village troop leader John Campbell who helps with boat moorings and boat recovery at the end of camp. Local residents regularly stop their cars to exchange greetings, Oban shopkeepers often express gladness at seeing the boys again, and family residents of Ardchattan Priory itself, congratulated the troop on their boat handling skills.

Many parents have publically and privately thanked the leader team for their efforts. As one mum emailed: "Thank you for taking the boys to camp at Oban, he had a great time and I'm slowly getting information about the things he enjoyed doing (that's boys for you). I really appreciate your efforts to allow them to have such experiences".

Such thanks have been passed on to leaders Martyn Hurley, Peter Jones and Steve Lewry, and to two parents helpers, now registered Occasional Helpers, Keith Young and Chris Ward, who assisted with driving and support duties. They in turn have been asked to pass on the troop's thanks and appreciation to wives, partners and girlfriends who allowed them the week off.

There was one disappointment. Apparently on the last night, at midnight there was a display of the Northern Lights with the night sky tinted green. We missed it, Dave Hope was particularly upset, he'd spent a small fortune travelling to Iceland in March when the Northern Lights failed to show.

Members are already talking of a return to Ardchattan in 2018. If any Dads are mindful to join the team and assist with the efforts don't hold back. Make yourself known

## Two camps in one

**FIRST tented camp of the year was held at Carrog in the north Wales Dee Valley, actually it was 'two camps in one' with younger scouts camped on a sheep pasture and older members on a survival camp in neighbouring hillside woodland.**

**Pleasingly all but one scout attended the weekend event in late April with the leader team splitting in half to run the two programmes, Peter Jones and Martyn Hurley looking after the younger ones, while David Hope and Steve Lewry supervised the 'survivalists'.**

**Camp and field crafts, firelighting and cooking, axe and knife safety, tent pitching, bird and tree identification, a six mile hike were enjoyed by the younger boys while shelter building, lighting fires with flint and steel, living off dehydrated rations**

## 25<sup>th</sup> Picton Scouts News Update Summer 2017



We started last term in taking part in the Shelterbox Scavenger Hunt. We entered two teams and had a fun day in the sunshine finding out lots of information about Liverpool that we didn't know before the event. Our teams came 3 & 4<sup>th</sup> in our first outing – so fingers crossed we can improve next year

We have been running lots of fundraising events in order to raise money for our Dublin trip in July (more to follow), and we had a horse racing night in May which generated lots of money, and fun was had by all. Many, many thanks to all leaders, parents and kids who attended and made the night the success it was.

We again joined the Beavers for a combined hike & BBQ around Freshfields in July. This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> year running we have done this and the rain even stopped for the BBQ and ice cream!

Our annual summer fair took place on the 17<sup>th</sup> June and it was a huge success this year. We had many more stalls than normal due to the high turnout of scouts prepared to run a stall. The sun shone all day which made the soak a scout/parent/leader a real attraction. We raised money for our local church (St Stephens) and our Dublin trip.

Church parade took place on the 18<sup>th</sup> June for the Rose Queen, many thanks to those who attended.

Cont'd

# Scouting News



## 25th Picton Scouts cont'd

At the end of June we entered a team in the District 5-a-Side football competition which was held at Goals in Speke. Even though we had no subs we made it through to the semi finals where we lost to a golden goal in extra time. Well done to the team



In July the 25<sup>th</sup> Picton went to Dublin for the Destination Dublin County Event 2017. 45 of us left our hut at 9:30 on the Friday and arrived at the fantastic Larch Hill International Scout Centre on the outskirts of Dublin at approx 7pm. The facilities here are truly exceptional and it made the whole weekend so much better.

On the Saturday we headed into Trinity College to be split into teams to try and complete an exhaustive treasure hunt around sunny Dublin. – Well done to Andy from the 25<sup>th</sup> Picton Cubs as his team won the event (but with 25<sup>th</sup> Picton Scouts)! We then met up with all the other teams for a McDonalds tea before returning to our accommodation and grass sledding before supper.



On the Sunday we visited Dublin Zoo for the day, before enjoying pizza in the splendour of Phoenix park before the tiring journey home via coach and ferry to get home at 3:30am on the Monday. Many thanks to all the leaders and parent helpers who assisted in this, our first international trip.



# Scouting News

## Group News



### Muslim Scout Fellowship 1st International Jamboree

This year has had a lot of 'firsts' for Toxteth Salaam Scout Group, and this summer was no exception! It was with some trepidation that 60 of us (including some who had never camped before) travelled to the far flung destination of Kibblestone Camp Site in Staffordshire, to join 1500 Scouts from around the world for a long weekend of Jamboree fun at the end of July.

We all arrived on the Thursday afternoon and were allocated a long, narrow plot. Having had tent practice the week before, the tents were pitched surprisingly quickly - even taking into account some new and donated tents we were putting up for the first time ever! There was a wonderful sense of camaraderie with the groups neighbouring us, and quite a bit of eyeing-up of each other's tents. We had the only Vango Mark 10s on site (thank you Rocket ESU!) and got quite a few admiring nods.



After dinner and night prayers in the marquee, we hit the hay. After morning prayers at 4am, there was time for some more snoozing before breakfast and then the Jamboree began in earnest.

It was at the opening ceremony that it became clear just how many Scouts from around the world had come. There were nearly 40 groups from around the UK, plus contingents from around Europe, North Africa, Asia and Australia. Each Group was announced over the speaker as representatives paraded their flag (ours had been hastily handmade the previous week!) by the main stage. Each group also donated a necker for a display.

Cont'd

# Scouting News



## Group News

### Toxteth Salaam cont'd

The theme for the Jamboree was 'Our Planet' and the activities were split into five zones - Mountain, Ocean, Rainforest, Urban and Desert, with each zone having a variety of new experiences to try. Highlights were climbing and abseiling; a giant water slide; making our own sunscreen; archery; and getting up close and personal with desert animals.



Friday night drew to a close with a Games Night for the different sections, where our competitive streak soon became very apparent (especially in our Leaders and Occasional Helpers!).

On Saturday the activities continued as the three sections moved between Zones. However, for Toxteth Salaam Scout Group, we had a special treat - a visit from our very own DC, Brenda Hope. She accompanied the Beavers in the morning and the Scouts in the afternoon, and although formal tent inspections were not carried out, I think she was pleased to see they had at least remained standing so far!

Saturday night's entertainment night was my personal highlight - sketches and songs from our brothers and sisters around the world. The Indonesian Scouts - who we had noticed were always in impeccable uniform and who started each morning with a very precise flag break - performed a mesmerising and moving traditional dance; the Malaysian Scouts sang a beautiful (and very funny) song which soon became the camp theme; and the Palestinian Scouts performed a national dance so full of energy and fire that you couldn't take your eyes off it. The night finished with a flourish of fireworks and we just about made it back to the tents before the rain came.



# Scouting News

## Group News



Toxteth Salaam cont'd



Sunday was a day of mixed emotions - sadness that the Jamboree was coming to an end, anticipation of the hot showers awaiting us at home, anxiety that we wouldn't get the tents down before the predicted rain later in the day... and excitement about the special guest coming just before the closing ceremony. Rumours were flying about (if you'll pardon the pun) and when we were all moved to the sides of the main field and could hear the buzz of a helicopter approaching, we knew they were right - it was Bear Grylls, Chief Scout, on his 'Bear in the Air' Tour. The crowd went wild, and he gave an inspiring speech about how the Jamboree had demonstrated the worldwide unity of Scouting. The closing ceremony finished with each Group being given Jamboree badges for our camp blankets and some investitures for the newest Group attending.

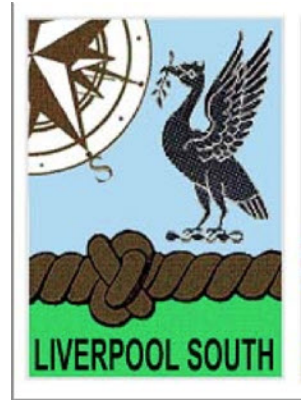
As we struck our tents and packed our rucksacks, the words of the Malaysian Scouts' song stayed with us - 'Making melodies in my heart, with my new friends'.

Amy Gledhill  
GSL Toxteth Salaam

# Scouting News

## *District News*

### Scout Active Support Unit



On Saturday 16th September, the District ran its first in house training day, the aim of which was to equip the participants with the necessary skills and confidence to carry out their respective roles in Scouting.

The six bases included Tents, mapping, compass, firelighting, knots and lashings and finally, stoves and lights.



The day got off to a good start with the sun shining and without the incessant rain which we have had for the past few weeks. Each base lasted for one hour with the teams rotating to the next one at the end of that time.

**Cont'd**



# Scouting News



## *District News cont'd*

### Scout Active Support Unit



The feedback from both participants and instructors was quite positive, everyone thought that they had gained some useful information from the day and it is something that we would consider doing again next year.



A BIG thanks to all those who turned out to make the day a success!!