

Itchen South District Scout Council AGM Reports

28th March 2017 at Cricket Activity Centre

ISDSC AGM

District Treasurer - Sam Foulds

The Treasurer's Report is a separate document.

District Chairman - Gordon Brakewell

After many years in a leadership role it has been personally quite refreshing for me to take on the role of District Chairman for Itchen South. I have made some new friends and in some cases, renewed old acquaintances and I have been particularly pleased with how friendly and welcoming people have been towards me.

During the year, I have attended a number of Group events and AGMs and enjoyed meeting all those involved in our local Scout Groups. I am particularly keen to ensure that our Group Executives are supported in fulfilling their role and responsibilities as Charity Trustees.

The Scout Association has recently placed an emphasis on the role of Executive Committee members as Charity Trustees. All committee members are now members or associate members of the movement and training has been made mandatory.

In December, 30 Executive Committee members from across the District attended our own Executive Committee Training Course delivered by Paul O'Beirne our County Secretary. I was not only pleased with the turnout but the feedback given from the participants was very good indeed. Ongoing training for those who need it will continue to be provided by the County.

Key features of our District Executive agendas throughout the year have been Safeguarding, Appointments, Health and Safety, Roverang (which celebrates its 60th year this year) together with Programme and Activity Centre updates. My grateful thanks go to all those involved in delivering and supervising these activities.

Itchen South is a very vibrant district when it comes to offering fun and adventure for the young people in our care and it is the Executive Committees job to ensure that we support the leadership team in order that this can continue, I would therefore like to finally thank everyone on both the District and Group executives for their contribution and support for Scouting in Itchen South, between us let's ensure that Scouting in Itchen South continues to thrive.

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District Commissioner - Sharon Ross

It has proven to be yet another successful year for Itchen South District with Census figures continuing the growth for young people. We had a very full year in Scouting with the celebrations for Cubs 100 years and Beavers 30th Birthday. Many young people had the opportunity to take part in nationwide and local event celebrating the milestones in Scouting history including the Cubs Centenary Festival of Flags at Winchester Cathedral with a District Cub taking pride of place as County Union Flag Bearer. Cubs took part in the District Cubs 100 Camp at Sandy Acres and Beavers held their BBFest celebrating 30 years as well as Sections attending a host of other events, too numerous to mention. There was a large contingent of Scouts attending the Chief Scout Gold Awards at The Thornden School hosted by County. Scouts also attended Scout Pride in London and we had Scout members displaying their Zany Zebra in Southampton over the summer. The District Scout challenges are going from strength to strength and giving many young people the opportunity to take part in activities and challenges they would not normally consider.

None of the above would be achievable without the hard work and commitment of all the Leaders, helpers and Committees in this District. This is only a small selection of the huge number of events that we made possible and I would like to thank everyone for all their valuable time in making the above possible.

ADC Beavers - Gary Foote

Since last years AGM the Beavers in Itchen South celebrated their 30th birthday.

It all started with Beaver District easter egg hunt where the beavers were running around cricket trying to find letters.

In June we had a big birthday camp with Itchen North Beavers at Sandy Acres. We had bouncy castle and cake, The beavers and leaders made loads of new friends from both districts.

We won the battle of the district challenge trophy at the camp

After last years successful visit, we all descended on Marwell again. We saw loads of animals and Father and Mother Christmas. Fortunately the weather was better for us this year.

In December, we held our Christmas Carol Service. About 130 beavers, leaders, parents and guests joined us for carols.

We went to Gambado's again this February. We had 100% attendance from all groups and 180 children ran, giggled, spun, climbed for two hours. I think all had loads of fun.

We finished our year with the Archery competition. This year's winners were 14th Sholing and they are now the proud owners of our trophy.

This year the beavers will be joining the rest of the district for #ifestival in April.

The Dambusters trophy will take place at #ifestival this year.

Thanks for a great year and for all the support I get from all leaders.

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ADC Cubs - Mark and Derren Avis

2016 was an extremely busy year for Cubs as we celebrated 100 year of Cub Scouts.

The year began with Cubs being given 100 challenges over the year to complete.

County and national events were put on, such as the Ageas sleepover where Cubs watched a Twenty Twenty match, paraded across the pitch and then slept over.

London Zoo Cub day and 2 groups (7th and 17th) from Itchen South attended, the Cubs had a great day and all received goody bags and the all important badge!

Groups also organised their own celebrations, challenges and camps.

A practice sing a long for the camp fire songs was held at 14th HQ ready for Centenary Camp.

In June all the groups from the District attended the Centenary Camp at Sandy Acres (which has been the first full turn out for a while) for the celebrations and took part in a traditional Grand Howl.

Many activities were laid on with a mix of old traditional with new, such as backwoods cooking, keep fit, branding, woggle making, crafts and bouncy castles.

The District Cub Archery, Rifle and Scrapheap Challenge competitions were held over the weekend.

The Archery was won by 7th Bursledon

The Rifles was won by 14th St Mary's Sholing

The Scrapheap was won by the 6th Hamble

We were also joined by Cub leaders from past and present for an afternoon tea, which was lovely to catch up and hear some old stories. We had Adam Jollins (County Commissioner) visit us in the afternoon as well and he even branded a tent peg!

The camp finished on Sunday with a Scouts own by Peter Vargeson District Vicar followed by an awesome bird of prey display, every Cub was allowed to hold an owl at the end of it and so were the leaders.

We would just like to say a massive thank you again to Martin Lush and Jan Barfoot for all their hard work and commitment to making the camp so successful.

In September we had a joint group from 1st and 7th enter the Brain box competition, sadly didn't get placed but had a great time with the challenges.

Fri 16th December saw groups come together for our annual Carol service and Promise party held at St Paul's church where everyone renewed their promise at 19.16.

This was also Derren and I last night as ADC Cubs as we had decided to step down and we are delighted to announce that Julie Axton will be taking the role over. We wish Julie all the best in her new role.

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District Network Commissioner - Richard Rex

Over the past year, Trojan have taken part in many activities; some organised by themselves and some by county/national teams:

- * Tomahawk throwing
- * Oxygen (free jumping)
- * Camps
- * One member went to Suisse adventure
- * Joined in/helped run an overnight kayak camping expedition with the explorers.
- * Hamble River Raid rowing event.
- * Bursledon Regatta, sailing and rowing and kayaking races.
- * One attended the Essex Jamboree as staff.

Network is growing within the district, although I fear we are still not capturing everyone that we could.

There is still more work needed with regards to interaction between the land based and sea based elements of the unit.

Development plans are in place also to help stabilise the unit and help it grow further... More to follow.

ADC Campsite - Martin Dale

The Campsite has been incredibly busy in the last year ensuring that all the relevant safety certificates were bought completely up to date. There have been many changes at the site for the better and will continue to be ongoing as we progress towards the summer months. There is now a new alarm system to deter unwanted visitors to the site which should increase security as the new housing development progresses. We are monitored by a call centre that has a guard on standby 24 hours to give us peace of mind. This year we intend to replace the boilers and all the windows along with new flooring both upstairs and downstairs.

The lease is now in its final stages: we have agreed a 30 year lease with Hants County Council and a rental of £500 (much lower than the initial £5,000 that they requested). We now have to wait for The Scout Association Trust Corporation to review the terms and accept on our behalf.

There were a few workshop weekends where scouting members from Itchen North and 17th Itchen South helped out with a few more planned for this year.

International groups visited the site including the Belgians who stayed for two weeks using Tesco as their spiritual home as there were so many of them to feed. An international day was held in their honour where youth members from Itchen South and Southampton City, as well as Adam Jollans, entertained them. There were also visits from German and French Groups on weekend camps. A Filipino Group stayed at the site which included visitors from around the world who met with them. EBC Think Safe enjoyed their week educating young school children from around the area with visits from the police and fire brigade amongst others.

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Adult Training - Jan Barfoot

After a delayed start to my appointment as Local Training Manager for Itchen South, I am now getting into the swing of things. I would still urge all Leaders to log on to Compass and ensure that their own records, as held, are correct. If there are any problems, please let me know – I can't promise to sort it, but I can ask the questions and find some-one who can!

"Getting Started" courses are continuing to be run most months, now alternating between Sunday mornings, Tuesday or Thursday evenings, trying to cater for everyone; as well as many Leaders completing the e-learning courses. Please remember that a copy of all e-learning certificates should be sent to your Training Adviser, or to Sharon Ross, or myself, and will still require the module to be validated.

The Adults Personal File has again been updated by HQ, with specific copies now for Section Leaders, Managers & Supporters, Non Wood Badge Appointments, and Supplementary Modules; as well as an additional Training Adviser's Guide specifically for Managers & Supporters (or M&S!).

I would like to thank all the Training Advisers who have taken on this additional role, helping other Leaders to achieve their Wood Beads, which now entails imputing their validating directly into Compass. It seems to be working well, and if anyone wants additional help, please ask. Now that TA's are able to validate Modules 1 – 3 within their own Group, getting Leaders onto full appointments should be much quicker and easier. If any Group does not have a TA within it, Module 25's are regularly being run, and this can also be used as mandatory On Going Learning.

I would like to thank Jen Upton, Local Training Manager for Itchen North for keeping the TA's meetings going until I took over for Itchen South. I'd also like to thank Aileen Wood and June Burton for all their help with running courses (and refreshments!), and keeping the administration for new Leaders up to date; as well as Su and Gordon Brakewell, for their help sitting on the Appointments Committee.

I'd also like to thank Sharon Ross as DC (she is now on my speed dial!) for all her help, as well as chasing Leaders who should be on the various courses as required.

Lastly, congratulations to all the Leaders who have completed their Wood Beads, and those that are in the process of going through their training.

Well done all, and let's have everyone fully trained!

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Canoe Centre - Joan Veal, ADC Activities

Centre spent the beginning of the year running its winter paddle training programme at Hamble Community Sports Centres pool with all sessions being full.

In April the Centre returned to lakeside for the outdoor programme. There has been an increase in the number of young people attending. The Centre is still running the PaddlePower scheme which the young people are progressing well.

Though out the season the Centre carried on with its Saturday Club running the PaddlePower scheme, also assessing the Scout Association Paddlesport and Time on Water Badges. With all the young people progressing well.

The Centre has a Duke of Edinburgh's Award Group training for their Silver Waterborne Expedition and completed their expedition in July on the River Wye.

This year the Taster/Casual evening sessions have been fully booked. July saw the end of the Centres main season for casual sessions for local Scout and Guide units, with all sessions being well supported.

In August two of our Level 1 Coach Lyn Jack and Shawn Moore were successful in their Level2 Coach assessments.

Several river trips have been run for the juniors on, also there have been several visits to Lea Valley.

The Centre has run several low level river trips on the Hamble, Itchen, Stour and Medway for the younger paddlers and Rivers Dart, Barle Lea Valley for the more experienced ones and adults. All of these have been well attended

Lakeside held an open day in September to promote the new Centre Buildings, with the Centre putting on a paddlesport display. The Centre moved into the new storage Building and changing rooms at the beginning of November

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