

Itchen South District Scout Council AGM Reports

24th March 2015 Cricket Campsite, Pauline's Lodge, Bursledon, SO31 1BH



www.isdsc.org.uk

ISDSC AGM

District Treasurer - Charles Hockley

The Treasurer's report is a separate document.

District Chairman - Ian Hallett

I would like to start by thanking everyone who has attended the AGM this evening. The turn out reflects the interest within our district in how it is run and by whom. The AGM is a vital meeting and allows us all to be part of the district and the decision-making.

Before I talk about the past year I think it is only right to pay tribute to Roy Bartlett who was our Vice President. Personally I never met Roy, but everyone I have spoken to, have only had praise for him and for the contribution he made to Itchen south district over many years. His passing is a great loss to the district.

Last year in March I took over as chairman from Charles Hockley. I would like to thank everyone who has supported me over the past year whilst I have been in post. Over the last few years the district has gone through a lot of upheaval and has had a number of District Commissioners. However over the last year the district has been exceptionally lucky to have Sharon Ross take the reins as the District Commissioner. I would personally like to acknowledge her tireless dedication over the past year in running the district, through some very difficult and challenging situations.

I think it also worth mentioning and thanking Neil O'Sullivan. Neil took on the role of Campsite Chairman following last years AGM. Neil has decided to stand down from this role, and the district would like to thank him for his hard work throughout the year in running campsite.

Yet another thank you, this time to H J S Accountants, who have audited our accounts for 2014/15. The AGM Report includes a very comprehensive set of accounts, which have been fully audited. This can give us all piece of mind that the groups are being run well financially. This is the first time HJS Accountants have audited our accounts and we hope it is a relationship we can build on in the future.

I have purposely tried to avoid going into detail on what has happened throughout the year within district, as this will be covered within the other reports in far greater detail than I can provide, but I feel it is important to comment on Compass and the impact this has had on everyone this year, not only in our district but nationally. Unfortunately the Compass software has suffered a number of setbacks and this has been exceptionally frustrating for everyone involved in scouting. This is a major implementation and once it is in place and working well will provide an excellent tool for all involved in scouting. Please continue to be patient as you have been this year.

Unfortunately due to work commitments I am unable to continue as Chairman long term, but have agreed with Sharon Ross to continue in the short term until a replacement can be found. Once Sharon concludes her search and finds a suitable replacement I will stand down.

Itchen South District Scout Council AGM

24th March 2015 at 7.30pm
Pauline's Lodge, Cricket Camp



ISDSC AGM

District Commissioner - Sharon Ross

Welcome everyone, although this has been a year of highs and lows, yet again, Itchen South have gone from strength to strength with the scouting that it continues to provide. We have had many fantastic events throughout the year within this District for which we should all be incredibly proud. The support you give as leaders is phenomenal and as such this allows the youth to achieve so many incredible activities and have tremendous fun. So therefore I would like to focus on the many positives that we have achieved throughout the year.

We have had the Cubs Colour Contest with Hamble as the winners, Chip attending the Beaver Camp, success for Hamble at the Great River Race, the first Dambuster's Trophy being won by 17th Beavers, 32nd winning the Nutter's Trophy, Spartan winning the Kudu, to name but a few – all such enjoyable events with winning smiles from those that are taking part. All of this would not be feasible without your many hours of hard work and dedication. We have presented many permits over the year to Leaders for water activities and also to the youth in the form of Personal Hillwalking Permits – and without the commitment of the Mountaineering Team as well as Skywalkers this would not be possible.

There were also the larger events that the District took part in such as Norjam and H0014 – giving those that took part the chance to meet many scouters from around the country. We even went further afield and took a group of Explorers to the Gambia with three more going on other major expeditions this year. The District were also out in force along with Itchen North and City in the St George's Day Parade at the Guildhall Square. This year it is hoped that yet more Scouters can take part in the parade in the City of Southampton. We had an absolutely amazing turnout at the Beavers and Cubs Christmas Service in St Paul's – not sure we can manage any increase on numbers this year!!!

Last year as a District, we organised our first Presentation Evening – a chance for all Leaders to get together for a chat and to appreciate the many hours of hard work that go into Scouting with presentations and Awards. Kevin Gillkerson was awarded the Medal for Meritorious Conduct and also Adrian Mori and Steve Moore received the Silver Acorn. Alex Franks put so much effort into Scouting and received his Chief Scouts Platinum Award as well as his Young Leader Belt – a truly awesome effort for a youngster.

Behind the scenes we have the Appointments Committee and I would personally like to thank Graham Taylor for his many years of commitment with scouting. He is stepping down as Chairman to spend more time at home and Su Brakewell will continue in his place and I wish her every success. The Training Team have had a very hard year with Compass being introduced and the old system not being accessible but they continue to pursue with the training in the District to ensure we have more Leaders undergoing their modules and completing their wood badges.

But it is you, the many Leaders that enable the continued success of Scouting to keep moving forward. It is with such gratitude that I salute every one of you for keeping up with the many changes that scouting has promoted over the year and providing the fun that we all enjoy.

ISDSC AGM

ADC Beavers - Gary Foote

Since last year's AGM the Beavers in Itchen South have been busy yet again.

It all started with Beaver District (war) Camp in June where the beavers were making planes and planting poppy seeds on site. They also all completed their stage 1 First Aid badge and Camp Craft badge with the help of Chip the Beaver.

In September we held the first of many, I hope, Dambuster Trophy where the beavers had to completed in several challenges. The 17th won this year. Well done to them.

After last years successful visit, we all descended on Marwell again. We saw loads of animals and Father and Mother Christmas. Unfortunately, the weather was not very kind to us this year and we got rather wet.

In December, we joined the Cubs and had our Christmas Carol Service. Over two hundred beavers, cubs, leaders, parents and guests joined us for carols.

In January, 14th Itchen South Beavers started a new colony.

After last years first archery competition, we met again. This year's winners were 6th Hamble and they are now the proud owners of our trophy. Each group was presented with a "Beaver" which were kindly knitted by my mum, Deanna, and her friend Doreen. They have been knitting since October and finally finished in time for the competition.

Finally we finished our year with a trip to Gambado's. We had 100% attendance from all groups and 180 children ran, giggled, spun, climbed for two hours. I think all had loads of fun.

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

ADC Cubs - Mark Avis

The cubs have had another great year with shooting, scrapheap challenge and archery competitions with many groups taking part.

A number of cubs in the district have completed their Silver Chief Scout Award with two evenings of achievement, one around the campfire and one at Christmas.

Many cub groups were away camping in the year and I'm sure we are all looking forward to 2015 and the year of adventure and of course 2016, 100 years of cub scouts.

The District Carol Service with the Beavers was a fantastic evening with overwhelming support from leaders, cubs and parents.

Thank you to all the District Cub leaders for all your hard work in your groups and your continued support.

ADC Scouts - Amy Williams

Scouts have had another great year. We have welcomed a lot of new scout leaders to Itchen South and I would like to congratulate all scouts who have completed their Chief Scout Award this year.

Scout groups across Itchen South have all been camping throughout the year and well done to the Leaders that have completed their Nights Away!

All the Groups are doing very well and are holding interesting activities from having an evening devoted to dementia to going to activity centers across the south.

I will be holding more activities for the Scout section - my first event was the Camp Fire in January which was a success - thank you to everyone who came and helped me run this event. In April we have the first rifle competition which I would like to become an annual event.

Finally I would like to thank all the leaders for supporting me in my first year as ADC Scouts, but most of all I would like to thank the Leaders and helpers for the hard work you do in your groups.

ISDSC AGM

DESC - Stuart Morgan

This year has been a very successful year for Explorers. We've had several go on international expeditions; some chief scouts platinum awards, Young Leader Awards and a large number of great activities that have involved all units.

We've had the first annual cardboard boat race and a large number of units took part in the national monopoly run in and completely invaded London along with thousands of other units.

Spitfire - Over the last year Spitfire ESU has progressed nicely. We have completed several bushcraft projects at Cricket Camp including fencing the area off and levelling a pitch for the much anticipated Tipi.

We have held several camps and trips including a 10 day adventure to Scotland where 7 Explorers 'topped out' on Ben Nevis. Other activities included canoeing on Loch Ness and cycling the Glens as well as visits to Skye, Kintail and Eileen Donan Castle. They were amazed at the vastness of Scotland's wildernesses.

We have just had our first Explorer gain his Chief Scout Platinum Award, with several more very close. We aim to concentrate on more on badge work as the Unit develops...

2015 promises to be a good year for us with another trip to Scotland over the Whitsun week in May and a summer camp surfing and climbing in Cornwall. Our newly formed Bushcraft School is very popular within the Unit with Explorers learning specific outdoor skills. Thanks to Martin Dale and Ali Ross who help make Spitfires what it is and not forgetting the time and effort put in by HEAT bushcraft, in particular Jim Cook... Thanks people!

Spartan - Our numbers currently stand at 28 members (as at last week) – We are in the process of linking 5 to Networks (they are looking at Kaboom as well as awaiting the new District unit). We have had 1 move on to Networks this year and 2 move on to other scouting roles, we have lost 5 along the way this year to a house move, emigration (she has joined scouting in Australia) and university/college/other youth commitments. Young leadership wise we have 3 helping with Beavers and 4 helping in cub sections as young leaders, we also have 2 Explorers that are Young leaders in guiding. 14 taking part in and 1 working with the Junior section Production Team in this years Roverang Show. We had 7 Spartan Explorers take part in the Gambia 2013/14 expedition (plus 1 Hamble and 1 Poisden) and 1 going to the world Jamboree in Japan. Soap Box derby, run by ISST, was a massive hit and we had 4 teams enter again. We had 2 teams enter the New Cardboard Box boat district Challenge which was a fantastic challenge – They are all very keen to get involved again this year. DofE has been very well receive and we have 8 currently enrolled and others working with their various schools. We took part in a very successful survival camp with Itchen North district that resulted in 15 Spartan Explorers completing their Survival Skills badges. They also completed 80% of their Pioneering Badge as well and just have a project left to do. We have two CS Platinum award finished.

We have had a really balanced programme this year offering a wide range of activities to suit all such as Backwoods bake off's Skating, Quiz nights, Light painting, Search and Rescue, 1st Aid and Film production as well as more traditional scout evenings of Pioneering, Climbing, shooting, debate and world issue nights and cooking challenges ect – We have even had a taekwondo team come along and show us their moves. This year's summer camp was an amazing success and enjoyed by all – we went Braggers Wood in the New Forest (at the request of the explorers) with 17 explorers and 5 leaders and had a fab 5 days Cycling, orienteering, rafting, create stacking, backwoods cooking and loads loads more. We have taken part in all of the of the districts bone of contention challenges all year with the last event being the London Monoploy run which saw 45 of the districts explorers from 3 units taking part – A fantastic day was had by all and our districts winners were Critchton (Netley).

Poseidon - Some of the things we have done this year. Winter camp at Gilwell – full on weekend activity camp Group camp with all sections of 9th Scout Group RN Soccer Sixes Tournament – knocked out in the Semi-final of the Plate RN Explorer camp – week long camp aboard HMS Bristol doing water activity courses. Four explorers passed RYA courses of varying levels in sailing, power boating and safety boat. We have also had evenings doing things like knitting with canes, real life Where's Wally around Southampton centre and a karaoke and chips evening before Christmas. We have also had 3 platinum awards and 1 diamond award completed. 4 explorers finished their young leader training and one of them earned his YL belt (the first in the district). Oh and we were by far the best at making a boat out of cardboard Critcheon Explorers

2014 2015 Brief summary The year has moved along and we now have approximately 12 Explorers with external interest from several new members planning to join shortly. In addition there are 6 new Scouts planning to join the group shortly from the local 4th Itchen Sea Scout Group.

Highlights from the year: summer camp August 2014, a excellent week camp at Chelmarsh Reservoir, Shropshire (shared with 4th Itchen Scout Camp). An excellent week with 8 Explorers attending. Activities included, dump drop off, sailing, kayaking down the River Severn, community works, night hikes etc. All thoroughly enjoyed.

Several explorers attended the Archery Camp at Lyons Copse in September and shot some very respectable scores.

The explorers attended their first Monopoly run in London. Thoroughly enjoyed the game and all came home very tired.

Several Explorers are engaged on the bronze DOE challenge and more looking to join up. Several explorers gained personal and leadership permits for Sailing and Kayaking which is a great help for the 4th Itchen Sea scout water evening activity days.

Columbus - Over the last few months Columbus have embarked on a number of different activities. Columbus have recently completed some renovation work on the flagpole at the scout hut, our explorers were heavily involved in re shaping the original foundation and mixing cement to create a sturdier and more grounded foundation for the flagpole to stand in.

On the 28th February our explorers went up to London to compete in the Monopoly Run. The explorers had an amazing day and ended up finishing 3rd in the district.

We currently have around 10 explorers who regularly attend our Monday nights and get involved in things like backwards cooking, games nights, quiz nights, orienteering and more. Columbus are actively looking to attract new members by using social media as a platform to advertise what Columbus is about and connect with people who may not already be a member of an explorer unit. We are also trying to get involved in more district events and integrate our unit with others in the area. Columbus ESU are hosting the next Bone of Contention challenge where we hope to come away victorious.

ISDSC AGM

Campsite - Neil O'Sullivan, Chairman

2014 to 2015 has been a solid year for the campsite. We've managed to minimise expenditure whilst keeping the core services running and meeting customer needs.

The site has tried to keep things stable throughout the year with an aim to try and establish the direction in which it needs to head. With the changes going on around the local area, with housing developments and logistical changes with regards to camping space, the campsite has worked through an analysis of options that are open to the team. The primary aim is to take the campsite in a direction that can continue to bring in continual business from all sectors of the community whilst meeting the needs of the Scout Association.

We have seen a new SASU (Scout Active Support Unit) setup to support the site. Providing man power for the site from general maintenance to running events. The SASU have been meeting regularly on Monday evenings but because of the flexibility that comes with an SASU they quite often meet on different nights according to who is available to help. The SASU has been headed up by John Parker over the past 10 months.

The committee made the decision to meet every month rather than every 2 months. The main aim was to ensure any areas of development and change could be progressed with quicker efficiency.

The Activities team have been working to introduce Activity clubs for the Instructors to attend. The aim is for Instructors to keep their skills up-to-date but also provides them with a chance to use the facilities for their own recreational purpose rather than being on the other side of the fence as the instructor.

General finances have remained stable and overall outgoings have been reduced which is down to the hard work from the committee but also because no large scale projects were in place over the past 12 months. The bookings team have also worked very hard over the year to ensure collection of outstanding payments are collected from customers. Their hard work has been noticed and has made a huge difference.

The site has seen a solid number of customers through the year, although numbers were slightly lower than the previous year the numbers were still good. A range of users have made good use of the site, ranging from Rugby Clubs to Brownies to Government offices. This year will see another Itchen South District Camp held at Cricket Campsite. However, due to the loss of the top field due to the ongoing development work, this may be the last Itchen South District Camp held at the site.

The site has a new ADC Campsite, Martin Dale. Martin has taken a solid grip of the site and he's keen to make many productive and affective changes to take the site into a new era. Martin is also part of the Campsite Committee and played a key role within the team before he became ADC but now he's able to make the decisions that need to be made to ensure the campsite remains on target.

One project that's been ongoing and has picked up momentum over the past 4 months is the Alan Rex Bouldering wall. We are close to completion on this very special project with an aim to have the wall opened and in use by the end of April 2015. We've ensured Alan's family have been involved in the design of the wall, with his grandchildren having their handprints on the wall.

As mentioned previously, there is ongoing housing development work being carried out very close to the campsite. This has obviously come with many challenges and has required a great deal of work on our part. We have met with many different people, including Politicians, Developers, Hampshire County Council and many more. We have been able to keep the relevant people aware of the needs of Scouting and the users of our facility. Aileen Wood has worked exceptionally hard on our behalf to ensure meetings are booked, relevant people have attended and the local community are aware of our situation. Her tireless efforts have not gone unnoticed and we thank Aileen for her hard work and commitment. We have also been heavily supported by Daniel Wiseman, a Scouter from Itchen North with professional knowledge of Land valuation and development work.

The past 12 months has proven very busy for the team but they all have the campsites best interests at the forefront of the plans. It was been a pleasure to work with the committee and I thank them for their support. I wish the new Chair all the success for the next 12 months. If they have a committee only half as committed as the 2014 committee then the site will go on leaps and bounds.

ISDSC AGM

Campsite - Martin Dale, ADC Campsite

Since taking over we've improved the appearance of the crew room, making it more inviting to visitors and updated equipment for some activities.

As you know we will be losing the top field in June but we will not allow this to affect the campsite, some trees around the site will need to be taken down due to age but this will allow more room on sites, we will be working with the Country Park to do this.

The tipi will be erected and ready for hire soon, working in conjunction with Spitfire ESU and there will be a few new activities coming to the campsite throughout the year so keep an eye on the district newsletter.

With that thought in mind we are always looking for new and current instructors to help with activities throughout the year. If you would like more info on courses coming up please feel free to contact me.

Marketing and Development - Aileen Wood

Advertisement - Continued to advertise in Scouting and Guiding magazines and activity directories.

Bookings – Corporate events and parties - the Lodge has seen an increase in the number of booking, particularly for Beaver Scout and Rainbow sleepovers. New double-glazed windows were installed in the dormitories, some toilets replaced and coats of paint applied to several walls. Cricket Camp continues to support traditional camping and adventurous activities. Instructors – although various courses have been run, all our instructors are volunteers. We still more people to qualify as instructors to help out with climbing, abseiling, rifles, archery, zip wire. Bushcraft have added a new dimension to the activities by offering tomahawk throwing and bushcraft skills. Various improvements and upgrades have been made to Campman.

Cricket Camp Lease - ongoing discussions about the Lease which is being offered for 30 years. Concerns have been raised about proposed rent increase.

Cricket Camp SASU - over 40 people attended the launch of the Cricket Camp Support Active Service Unit. The aim is for the volunteer members to assist with maintenance of the site as well as enjoying activities and social events. An activities dress was agreed with blue and orange neckerchiefs and t-shirts. Change of roles - John Parker became SASU Manager; Martin Dale took over as ADC Campsite; Chrisy Barfoot joined the team as Activities Officer.

Education and Training- various County Courses and safeguarding workshops have been run in TRACS bringing in some revenue for the campsite. The Diploma in Management & Leadership Diploma Level 5 course has ended. A visit by the CMI moderator in July 2014, was very favourable commending the methods used in the delivery of the course and assignments undertaken. The course registration will not be renewed. This year we have hosted conferences and workshop for outside agencies.

Funding and Grant Applications / Gift Aid - little has been raised in grants this year. A major stumbling block has been the absence of our Lease – which is required with most submission for monies when a property is leasehold. Two short break grants have been awarded to 2 scouts in Itchen South to pay for carers to attend meetings.

Newsletter - the Newsletter continues to be published on a monthly basis. A review will take place in the coming year, as to the value of the Newsletter. It has been apparent that few people read or consult the Newsletter. Thanks to all who have sent in articles, photographs and other items.

Proposed Pylands Lane Housing Development - the working Group has met with HCC, EBC, Park staff, developers, councillors to ensure that ISDS is represented at all stages of the process. Correspondence received from the developers has indicated that we will lose the top field in June 2015. Details about the S106 agreement (£125,000) have been requested. We would like to thank, Daniel Wiseman for all his professionalism, support, guidance on planning matters and drafting papers.

Representation - continued to attend all meetings where the interests of Itchen South District Scouts are concerned e.g. AGM, Southampton Voluntary Services, Inspiring Inclusion and other workshops; Bursledon Parish Planning meeting. ISDSC representatives were invited to join the Hamble Valley River Forum (HVRF). Aileen Wood was appointed to the Hampshire Countryside Access Forum representing young people. This is a voluntary 3 year posting.

TRACS - TRACS has been used for a variety of activities – as an internet cafe, for training, hosting JOTA/JOTI, film shows. A number of scout groups ran IT training sessions or completed badge work using the PCs.

Thank you - a big thank you to Sharon Ross, John Parker, Neil O'Sullivan, Andy Viney and Dan Wiseman for all their help during the last 12 months.

ISDSC AGM

Adult Training - Aileen Wood, Training Adviser

In the last year HQ has updated certain modules e.g. Module 7 and some leader and manager training has been combined into one modules e.g. such as Administration and Programme Planning.

Getting started courses continue to be held monthly usually with a good turn out of newly appointed leaders. Although the training commitment is explained at Appointments and Module 1, many leaders fail to follow up their training, complete their Personal Learning Plans (PLPs) or validate Modules 1 & 3.

Seventy –five per cent of the training modules have been run in the District either at Cricket Camp or at the 7th Bursledon HQ. Although these are well attended, rarely is it by leaders from Itchen South.

Although the onus is on the leader to contact the Training Adviser (TA) to validate the learning, it is often the other way around. The easiest way to validate training is to visit the leader in his / her HQ and do an observation sessions followed by a discussion. Well done to the TAs for their perseverance in this task. Graham Taylor has met with the GSLs (in both Itchen Districts) who have to complete the management modules. Martin Dale has been on hand to validate Nights Away permits

Several leaders have updated their first response certificates or completed refresher course. My thanks to Jen Upton & Malcolm Thornton at 3rd Itchen North and Chris Walker Itchen South for running these sessions.

The TAs from Itchen North and Itchen South Districts meet once a term to discuss their concerns, leaders' progress and be updated on training activities. Until July 2014, Jen Upton, LTM Itchen Districts, had been amending HQ database training records. The ongoing issues around Compass (HQ database) continue to be a concern. Many records have not been updated including training records, Woodbadges applications and DBS checks. Several leaders are waiting for confirmation of their appointments.

My thanks to - June Burton for her ongoing multi-tasking support – arranging the Appointments; reminding leaders to attend Getting Started, following up training, validating learning, helping with feedback session and providing refreshment at the courses. Graham Taylor for his continuing support with Getting Started and other modules run in–District and attendance at the Adult Appointments meetings. Jen Upton and the TAs for continuing to support leaders and help them complete their training Sharon Ross– as DCs continuing to endorse the Scout Adult Training Programme

Congratulations to those leaders who received their Woodbadges or gained their Nights Away permits.

Canoe Club - Joan Veal, ADC Activities

The year started with the Centre running one-to-one pool sessions at Hamble Sports Complex. These sessions continued until Easter and were very successful.

The outdoor sessions starting after Easter at the Centre's base at Lakeside, Eastleigh ran throughout the year and finished in December.

Saturday sessions run by the Centre were well attended with an average of 25 young people and adults each week.

As part of the Centres evening programme, a series of successful "Taster" sessions were run for units within Itchen South District and from other local districts. Also the Centre catered for several groups staying at Cricket Campsite.

Courses run by the Centre included British Canoeing 1 and 2 Star, Personal Skills Awards, 3 Star Canoe, PaddlePower Start and Passport. Also the Centre ran six Foundation Safety and Rescue Training courses.

As a Centre it supported the Duke of Edinburgh's Award programme for Silver Physical Recreation, Practice and Qualifying Expeditions in Open Canoes on the River Wye. We also had a Gold group that carried out their practice expedition again on the River Wye.

The Centre hosted the County Traditional Rafting Permit Assessments.

In January, the Centre had its annual Approved Centre status granted. In November its Club Mark and Top Club were successfully reviewed.

A series of successful river trips were run throughout the year, with weekend trips to the Rivers Barle and Medway, Day trips on the Rivers Hamble, Itchen, Stour and Chichester Harbour. Several members have been to the Lee Valley Olympic Slalom site to paddle the Legacy course.

ISDSC AGM

Heat Bushcraft and Survival - Jim Cook, Manager

This year has been a very busy year for Heat Bushcraft and Survival, we have lost some members and gained new people, we have continued development of the team and have added new skills to our repertoire.

Our biggest event in 2014 was when we were invited to run a week of survival bases at Norjam in Norfolk, we had up to 40 young people with us every day from 10am until 10am the following day and during this time they learnt to use edged tools, build shelters and cook their food over open fires amongst other things, two Itchen South members, Ali Ross and Martin Dale were involved with us at Norjam.

Over the course of 2014 -2015 we have carried out 32 various outreach sessions among them, Norjam, The Wilderness Gathering, Indaba, Portsmouth mix and meet, Zombie camp, Young carers etc also a number of camps and sessions at Cricket camp.

At the end of 2014 we recruited a new member Jason Witts who holds an NCFE Bushcraft qualification and he is currently developing a modular learning system in Bushcraft and is offering Gold DofE Bushcraft skills training from 2015.

Heat have also supported Spitfire (Bushcraft) ESU throughout the course of 2014, including assisting with coppicing Hazel at Manor Farm country park and helping them collect poles for their Teepee as well as assisting at some unit nights and camps.

Members of Heat were also involved with the refurbishment of the 11th HQ Kitchen and over the Xmas / New Year break work at Paulines Lodge.

There are already a number of events booked into our calendar and we are already developing plans for additional recruitment to the section.

Scout Active Support Unit - John Parker, Manager

We launched Cricket's Scout Active Support Unit in July 2014 and since then we have carried out a variety of works around the campsite including:-

- Painting the outside boys and girls toilets.
- General site maintenance.
- Meeting and Greeting Campers during the busy peak camping session.
- Tidying up and sorting out the containers.
- Constructing the Alan (REXY) Rex Bouldering wall.
- Helping out with Nutters Trophy and District Kudu events.

I would like to thank Neil O'Sullivan and the Campsite Exec for their support throughout this year.

I will be stepping down as SASU manager with effect from the District's AGM as I have been asked to take up a new role as Assistant Explorer Scout Leader with Columbus ESU. I will however remain a member of the Unit and support it's future challenges and activities.

ISDSC AGM

Youth Council - Alister Ross

On the weekend of Friday 30th January to Sunday 1st February Itchen South held its first full Youth Council meeting. Two young people from every Scout group and two from every Explorer unit were invited to attend the weekend.

Saturday began with an informative workshop on what the District is and the structure of the District run by Sharon Ross - District Commissioner and Andrew Viney - County Executive Committee Member. The Young People then held their own AGM to discuss who should be allowed onto the Youth Council? This became a heated discussion with all young people expressing their views incredibly well. Various key points were identified with possibilities to expand youth involvement to all sections, if not on the council themselves.

It was identified that communication between Leaders and young people about upcoming events may be an area for improvement so as an attempt to overcome this the Youth Council has set up its own closed Facebook page allowing us to pass on all information to young people. Along with this, it was suggested the Youth Council has its own section on the Itchen South District Scouts website, for those without access to Facebook, with a link to the District Calendar, a list of any ongoing projects or events that it establishes and a report of what has been agreed.

We then ran a session on the Climbing Wall of Youth Involvement and where we should be aiming (level 7). This identified some scouting activities the young people have taken part in and looked at what level they were on. The outcome was that both the District and their group were split equally between level 4 (assigned and informed) and level 5 (consulted and informed). Following on from this the delegates were asked what they would like the District to do for them, the outcome of this being the young people would like more District competitions, more activity days and for the leaders to share information about national events such as Gilwell 24 and Winter Camp.

At breakfast on Sunday morning we were joined by Adam Jollans – County Commissioner and Mark Tarry – Chief Commissioner of England, this gave the young people the opportunity to discuss their Scouting experiences with Adam and Mark as well as the chance for them to ask any questions that they would like answered. We then moved onto looking at planning the first project which is how to get young people involved with the campsite and move towards the vision for 2018. Some good ideas have been put forward with the aim to implement them over the upcoming months.

The final session was to have a review of the weekend Youth Council and looked at what to change for the future and ways to improve it. A few things that the young people liked were; that leaders put in lots of effort, very informative, meeting new people, getting contacts, VIP guests. Some things to improve it would be; to limit discussion times, more active sessions, put an age limit on Youth Council members, more information on the Young Leaders scheme and DofE opportunities. A few ideas for future guest speakers were also bought up these were; Adventurers, Hampshire Ambassadors, HSX and Expedition Representatives.

We would like to say thank you to all guests who interacted well with the Youth Council whether they just popped in to say hello, ran sessions, facilitated or came along to see what the Youth Council was about.

ISDSC AGM

Itchen South Mountaineering Team - Mike Hoar, Scout Active Support Manager

Trips and expeditions

Since the last AGM ISMT has been very busy with weekend trips away continuing to get Scouts, Explorers, Networks and adults from both Itchen South and Itchen North on the hills with trips to South Wales in April, the South West Coastal Path in July and Snowdonia in October.

Towards the end of 2014 ISMT provided another chance for Scouts to achieve their Scout Expedition Challenge award when Neil O'Sullivan led a weekend in the Black Mountains in South Wales. The weekend offered Scouts a chance to experience surviving in the wilderness without all the mod cons they're used to at home. and to earn their Scout Expedition Challenge Award.

We started off 2015 with a March trip to the Brecon Beacons.

In 2015 ISMT will continue to offer a range of trips;

- 3rd – 5th July – Peak District. This is planned to be a trip with a difference, we are hoping to offer cycling and possibly canoeing. More details to follow.
- September 2014 - Scout Expedition Challenge Weekend South Wales. Open to Scouts who haven't already got their Award. This award programme will also involve day hikes and over night camping prior to the actual weekend to give the scouts some training ready for the real thing. More details to follow.

Skywalkers

We are currently working on bring back Skywalkers for a second intake which currently is proposed to start in September. There has been good interest from Scouts and parents.

For those have you that don't know, Skywalkers is a training programme for Scouts which aims to work towards the Scouts achieving their Adventurous Activity Permit in Hillwalking – Personal Permit" The first intake saw a number of scouts achieve their permits and also helped a number of leaders gain their T2 Hill Walking permits.

Does your Group want a hillwalking trip? If so then the team can organise a weekend in the hills specifically for your pack, troop or unit. All you need to do is contact us and we will then work with you in creating a suitable programme and event.

Do you want to become a hillwalking leader? If anyone is interested in getting involved with hillwalking leadership and taking out an Activity Permit in hill walking then we can advise you on the assessment syllabus, help you brush up on the core skills and point you in the right direction to get assessed. We can also run basic navigation training for leaders who want to pass on these skills to young people in their sections. Again, please contact us if interested.

Finally, a big thank you to all leaders and parents who give up their time to support ISMT.

Page 12