



## TRUSTEES' REPORT 2017/2018

### District Chairman's Report

It has been another busy year for the Executive with new faces joining us both on a regular basis and in advisory roles. We have had the ongoing negotiations for the new lease to secure the long-term future for the Park Farm Camp Site, financial support to arrange for the upcoming Jamboree attendees and of course the general day to day problems and the decisions that are needed. I believe we have had a good year overall and that the District is in a strong position to continue its work.

I would like to thank all those on the Executive for their hard work in running the District business and enabling us to provide the facilities and opportunities for the young people in the area. I would also wish to thank the members of a sub-committee who have dealt with the composition of the new lease, in particular Len Butler, Mark Wingett and Denver Woodward for their work in going through the many clauses to enable us to obtain the best outcome. In addition, I would thank Ken Gulati for the advice given to us in regard to the many legal matters that the lease entailed. The gains we have obtained are the addition of the two buildings that sit at the current entry to Park Farm, a fence to enclose these properties and some extra land. I am pleased to say that we are on the final lap in obtaining a long lease on Park Farm with news that the Scout Association Trust Corporation has sent the agreed lease for approval and signing. The new lease will run for 35 years.

Once the above is formally concluded we have the next challenge of raising funds to kit out the new buildings and carry out the necessary improvements to the various parts of the site that are urgently required. This will involve applying for any funds that are available from the various foundations and lottery funding. In addition, we will need to see if we can raise funds from events within the District. I would ask that if anyone knows of a source that may be available to contact me with the details.

I believe special thanks should go to the team that maintains the facilities here at Park Farm. I know that this year has been one of some frustrations as we have been reluctant to action any major works while awaiting a settled future. Hopefully this coming year will be one of progress and improvement. So, thank you Mark and your team.

We still have a need to enable the District Shop to operate on a more regular basis and continue to look for volunteers to assist Richard Salmon. The Executive is grateful to him and his small team for their efforts in running the shop. As always if you know of anyone who can help or feel that you can spare some time to assist please contact either Richard or a member of the Executive.

So, we look forward to the coming year and a secure future of scouting here at Park Farm and I know the new Executive will meet the demands placed before it.

**Colin Griffiths**

District Chairman

# Banstead District Commissioner's Report

*For the second year in succession we have seen a small increase in youth and adult numbers across the District which is due to the dedication of Leaders turning out week after week with exciting, adventurous programmes.*

The young people in all sections are working towards their Chief Scout Awards and indeed many have been achieved. The Scouts and Explorers are also involved in Duke of Edinburgh Scheme and a few Explorers are registered to participate in the Queen Scout Award. All these awards take time and commitment, and congratulations to those have achieved them over the last 12 months.

Headquarters have now moved on from the 2018 vision to the 2023 vision. The County Leaders have looked at this and have asked Districts to concentrate on the four 'Ps'. People, Places, Programme and Perception. We have covered these in our District Development Plan, and by working together we can achieve these targets. We will make Banstead District grow from strength to strength offering safe and secure scouting in HQs fit for purpose with exciting programmes run by fully trained Leaders.

All Groups would like more Leaders to spread the work load so if you know anyone with a skill and some free time please let us know. Everyone has something to offer and we need to recognise the benefits of 'flexible scouting'.

Once again, Colin Griffiths (District Chairman), Mary Butler (Secretary) and Vernon Tucker (Treasurer) have given excellent service to the District and their work is appreciated by all. Thanks are also due to the other members of the Executive Committee for their time and support in guiding the District. The District also acknowledges the work done by all the people behind the scenes to keep things moving. – John Tickett (Park Farm Bookings), Mark Wingett and his team for their continued work at Park Farm, Barbara Jones (Special Needs Advisor) and everyone involved in Training.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Leaders and their families and friends for the work and commitment to all the young people in their care.

Finally, I am stepping down as DC at the end of July and would like to wish the District every success in the future. I have been so proud of all your achievements and feel very privileged to have been your DC.

**Jan Jobson**

District Commissioner

# BEAVERS

The individual colonies have had another very busy year, with lots of sleepovers, outings and visits from local community workers and volunteers.

The Beavers joined the Cubs, Scouts, Explorers and Network at a district Remembrance parade in Banstead High Street and at the St George's parade and service.

District Beaver events included an Experiment badge afternoon, attended by around 90 Beavers on a freezing cold afternoon in March. All of them survived the cold (and the experiments) and went home with a bit more scientific knowledge than when they arrived.

Another Storycraft afternoon, where the children made models, based on the book "Charlie Cook's favourite book". A third District event will be a cinema trip in late November.

We're also eagerly anticipating Bazzaz, a County event for all Beavers and Rainbows in Surrey, and keeping fingers crossed for good weather in June.

The majority of Beavers are boys, but some Colonies have a few girls attending regularly. As always, all the leaders continue to work hard to provide a fun and varied programme each week for our noisy and enthusiastic young Beaver Scouts.

## Liz Batten

Assistant District Commissioner (Beaver Scouts)

# cubs

All packs are working towards their Chief Scouts Silver Award and quite a few have already been presented. All packs have a good number of cubs and are running fun and interesting programmes. Some packs are having difficulty finding leaders, and this causes big problems when trying to keep the Packs running. We are trying to resolve these issues.

This year we held our first District shooting competition which was a great success. But other District activities were not well supported, and our District camp having to be cancelled due to very low response from the cubs and 3 packs not wishing to take part. We took part in the County Cooking Competition and in the County Quiz. Our teams did well against some strong teams from the rest of the county.

## Frank Jones

Assistant District Commissioner (Cub Scouts)

# SCOUTS

2017 was a year of the tri annual Scoutabout event in which virtually all troops attend the Ardingly Showground. Well over 100 Banstead scouts and leaders joined 6000 other scouts and guides from across the County to partake in 150 activities over the weekend. Our District leaders also support the County; several being on the organising committees and the others supporting the event over the weekend.

The Troops all have very full programmes with activities ranging from being creative making boats, proficiency badges like the Master at Arms and Digital Citizen and learning new skills like shooting, canoeing and navigation. Five scouts have gained the Chief Scout's Gold Award this year which, whilst being lower than some years, reflects the current age range.

The scouts spent 600 nights camping last year.

My thanks to the leaders who give up their time every week to run meetings and organise all the activities.

**David Shepherd**

Assistant District Commissioner – Scouts

# EXPLORERS

Last September Banstead started its 4<sup>th</sup> explorer unit due to the high demand placed on the units. DDE (Downland) meets at 1<sup>st</sup> Tattenhams HQ as CDE (Central) have moved to 1<sup>st</sup> Nork's HQ. There are over 90 explorers in Banstead supported by a team of 14 leaders.

Explorers have been involved in numerous camps ranging from North Wales, Cheshire and the now traditional pre-Christmas Hikes to assisting with family camps and other sections and have also completed 600 nights. They have a varied programme from organising their AGM to survival skills, go karting, sailing, Scuba diving, attending pantos and the Globe theatre as well as tree planting.

Many Explorers are registered on the Duke of Edinburgh scheme with one Gold award this year, as well as completing their Scout awards and activity badges

My thanks to the leaders for all the fantastic activities they have organised and especially those at DDE who have stepped forward to start a new unit, a daunting prospect.

**David Shepherd**

District Explorer Scout Commissioner

# network

As always numbers fluctuate, averaging 24 with 11 at University. With so many at University and a number of those remaining starting their careers, we are quite often short at meetings. Also, during winter months at our Park Farm HQ, it becomes difficult to run a good Scouting programmes. Our aim for the later part of the year was to try and improve links between the Network and the Explorer Units to do more activities together. With a change in programing we now give the members a date, when they have to plan the event, advertise it and run it. This seems to be working so far!! Our varied programme covers pioneering, hikes, archery, shooting and climbing along with other events such as top golf, pumpkin carving, backwoods cooking, carving and campfires. The project to build a backwoods shelter was put on hold with the current lease situation. A portable BBQ is planned but this is still in the building stage.

At Easter we attended Revolutions on the Isle of Wight including a number of new members. It was a great success again. At Scoutabout in July we ran the Dunk Tank which was a great success- the queue to get dunked was longer than the queue to throw the balls! The whole event was brilliant as always: the organisers did a stupendous job. We also successfully ran the BBQ at Colin Sutherland's Train Day while in September some helped at Nork's Family Camp with the BBQ, Climbing, Archery and the camp fire

Like every section in Scouting, the numbers on the books rarely relate to how many actually turn up to each meeting and the age range of Network members make it a very difficult Unit to run at full strength all the time. Network members are our future leaders, and well over two thirds of our members are Leaders with Groups in the District. BanterNet is a superb unit supporting the County and District at nearly all events. Our older members are approaching 25 and hopefully move on to SASU. What is needed now is some fresh young blood with new ideas to carry the Unit forward and keep up the proud name of BanterNet.

**Mark Wingett**

Network Commissioner

**David Field**

Network Commissioner



## **Banstead District SASU**

Most people, including many in Scouting, have no idea what a Scout Active Support Unit is until you say "It's the old Fellowship". Unfortunately they then think of 70 year olds serving tea at fetes! With members able to join SASU from 18 we really want to get away from that stereotype. The Unit allows people to give their time to Scouting on a flexible basis. People can still be involved in Scouting without the full-time commitment of being a leader. So, whether it's an 18-year-old who is starting a career but cannot commit to Network or leadership or someone who has retired and wants to be able to help out, all are welcome.

SASU provides a resource for Leaders in Groups, District Commissioners and County/Area Commissioners, who can use it in whichever way is required. A District Scout Active Support Unit can be a source of extra adult help in a Leader's absence, or they can teach skills that an existing Leader team do not have, such as pioneering, knotting, camping, etc.

A meeting was recently held to decide how the unit will move forward. It is to be named 'BanterPlus' as it is the next progression from Network and the two units will work closely together. We currently have 16 members, are on OSM and, like Network, we plan to run the unit through Facebook.

SASU attended Scoutabout in July, and its members, if they were not running the dunk tank, helped the Activity Team around the site or man the Activities Tent. In November SASU were the Judges at the District World Scout Jamboree Selection Camp, an extremely impossible task with 18 applicants, most of whom deserved to go. At the end of November, we held our first social, a meal at the Emperor in North Cheam, a very pleasant and enjoyable evening. SASU is in its 2<sup>nd</sup> year and, like Network, will hopefully thrive and be able to support the District and County, in many capacities.

**Mark Wingett**

SASU Manager



## Park Farm Campsite

Again, it's been a fairly quiet year with the team just carrying out basic maintenance. The time lag on the new lease has been very frustrating as there are a number of repairs required, but future changes will deal with these. This year on-going project of cutting all the low hanging branches down on the site as they are becoming quite hazardous, is taking time. 3rd Banstead donated their old cooker which is so much more user friendly and the oven is much easier to light. It has been professionally cleaned. During the Jamboree Selection Camp, the participants worked extremely hard during the weekend and so much was accomplished. Sadly, most of the time and effort could be avoided if users had more respect for the site!

Once the lease issues are sorted the aim is to have an indoor archery range/games hut which will be a great asset to Park Farm, meaning shooting and archery can be used all year round. We are constantly striving to improve Park Farm to make it better and more inviting to users, but obviously the financial constraints generally dictate just how much we can grow as well as the amount of time required to keep it maintained. Thanks to my team for all the hard work and effort they put in supporting me trying and make this a site to be proud of.

**Mark Wingett**

Site Manager



## Nights Away

Over the past year we have issued 15 Nights Away Permits to leaders in Banstead with 7 being to leaders who have not held a permit previously. This is really good news as it supplements existing leaders especially as there has only been one retiree. Our newest unit DDE already have one leader with a permit which means they are ready for camping in their first summer.

There are also 5 leaders in the process of obtaining a permit with the majority of these are nearing completion. During 2017 Banstead camped over 2770 nights between all the sections

**David Shepherd**

Nights Away Advisor



## Youth Commissioner's Report

Youth Shaped Scouting is all about empowering young people to undertake their own adventures and shape their own experiences. Even before the Youshape campaign was introduced 2 years ago, Banstead have always strived to keep young people's opinions at the forefront of scouting in the District. For example, our well-developed Explorer and Network Units executive committees, all formed of youth members, work alongside the leaders to organise programmes and discuss decisions regarding their unit.

A particular highlight of the year for me was the World Jamboree selection camp where our Explorers and Scouts all demonstrated their incredible leadership and teamwork skills in a series of relentless tasks and challenges. Furthermore, I would really like to say thank you to the Explorer volunteers who joined the service team at Scoutabout and to Network who ran the dunk tank; your efforts and enthusiasm certainly did not go unnoticed!

Looking forward to this coming year I am delighted to now be working with the DC to potentially develop a core team of youth managers to support myself and the District and to also help organise larger District events for all our sections. This will have a particular focus on creating active youth forums and discussions with our younger sections. I'm a firm believer in the importance of considering the views of our young people when deciding the future of scouting and I'm excited to see what the next year will hold.

### Melissa Vagg

Youth Commissioner



## Banstead District Media

The 2nd edition of the reformatted Ram newsletter featuring articles from our members going to the next World Jamboree was released in March 2018 and has been well received. There has since been a positive increase in the number of articles being sent in so hopefully if this continues this will enable newsletters to be published on a more frequent basis.

Press publicity has not been prolific as the Surrey Mirror (which covers East Surrey) does not give a lot of coverage to Banstead. However, groups are successfully continuing to publish their own news sheets etc, update their websites and utilise Facebook to keep members and parents informed.

Banstead District Scouts now also have a brand-new website which is another fantastic tool for groups to inspire others with tales of their activities and adventures.

### Len Butler

Assistant District Commissioner – Public Relations