

DC's Column

Before the start of the District Cub Scout Skills Day on Saturday, 29 March, our Cub Scouts and many adults from across the District joined with me to quietly stand in Devonshire Square remembering our District President, Gerry Gillett with fondness and gratitude for a lovely man who loved life and loved Scouting. There will be many tributes to him but this simple act, no doubt the first of many, was very moving. The day that followed was a brilliant success, as Gerry would have expected and loved. Many, many times I have taught Cub Scouts the art of Tracking and have always explained to them its history, and that the sign for Gone Home also has a special significance for us as adults. That it means an adult in Scouting has passed away into Heaven and Gone Home. You can imagine how poignant that was for them and me on Saturday. Their faces told me they understood. God Bless You Gerry.

I am looking forward to St George's Day and hope to see you all having fun and a good afternoon. As it is my first as your District Commissioner, I am obviously hoping for lots of super weather and to see as many of you as possible on this very special day.

I met up with several Eastbourne & District Beaver Scouts having a great time at the County Sleepover at Broadstone Warren, although I am not sure what sleep had to do with it. The leaders seemed to think there was a distinct lack of it! These events are a great opportunity for our youngest members to see that they are part of a much larger family so please take advantage of them when they occur.

The following weekend I visited our Patrol Leaders taking on several training challenges at Bushy Wood, they were certainly enjoying the chance to excel. Thank you to Beverly and Marc and your team of helpers for giving them this experience of team work and leadership skills.

The District Cub Scout skills day was equally successful, thanks to Tracey and her army of helpers. 80 Cub Scouts, some of them experiencing

skills and realising for the first time what Cub Scouting is all about, whether it is lighting a fire, learning how to tie a knot and why, not to mention the gooey delights of a dough twist or a gashed arm (wound simulation)!

Talking of gashes, thank you to those who have asked after my welfare after I decided to commune with the pavement near my home. My nose is returning to normal shape leaving my dentist to put my teeth back in the right order.....!

If you wish to contact me, please feel free to do so, either by phone on 01323 646350 or email at dc@eastbournescouts.org.uk.

Christine Skinner (DC)

District AGM

It has been agreed by the District Executive Committee that the date of the Annual General Meeting will be moved back a week to Friday July 10 2009. Please can you make a note of this change.

Uniform Price Increase

Maggie Collins has been informed that ALL Scout uniform prices, both adult and young persons, are increasing by significant amounts as from 1st April 2009. This is the first increase for several years and it will have an impact. **However wholesale prices are still open to our shop for one week.**

Maggie is willing to take orders up until 8 April 2009 if you want to secure items at existing prices. She can be contacted on 01323 504334.

District Diary

Apr 17-19 County Scout Camping Comp.
 Apr 20 Appointments Meeting
 Apr 26 St George's Festival of Scouting
 Apr 29 District Team Meeting
 May 9 CS Oakleaf Hike
 May 11 SLs Meeting
 May 11 CSLs Meeting
 May 14 BSLs Meeting
 May 16 Leaders 'Have-a-Go Day'
 May 17 County Gold CSA Reception
 May 18 GSLs/Commissioners Meeting
 May 20 Appointments Meeting

Gerry Gillett



It is with great sadness that we record the recent loss of our loyal President and dear friend Gerry Gillett.

Gerry began his Scouting in this District with the 2nd Eastbourne (St Andrew's Norway), in 1964, first as ASL and then as SL. In 1975 Gerry took over from Donald Love as District Commissioner, a position he held for nine years. He then served three years as ADC(PR) until being elected onto Eastbourne Borough Council in 1988. In 1993 Gerry became District Chairman, taking over from Robin Kennedy, until six years later (1999) when he replaced Ted Dobell as our District President, a position he relished and fulfilled admirably for coming up to ten years.

There is so much that could be said about Gerry. I suppose one observation that sums up Gerry's unfailing commitment to Eastbourne Scouting is that "he was always there". It was not just for the large or important events that he would turn up, when perhaps you'd expect it, but even at the majority of less grand occasions – even selling tickets – he would be there supporting, whatever the weather. And he always brought with him the "feel-good factor", helping to make everyone concerned feel they were valued and doing a great job.

We all know that "thanks" can sometimes mean so much, and another of Gerry's qualities, that had undoubtedly been experienced by many over the years, was the sending of a brief letter or note of thanks or good wishes following an event or personal achievement. Due to that lovely script handwriting of his, you always knew when it was one of Gerry's letters arriving through the letterbox to offer his appreciation or congratulation.

Gerry was a true ambassador for Scouting in Eastbourne and his service was recognised by the Medal of Merit in 1982, the Silver Acorn in 1988, the Bar to the Silver Acorn in 1998, the Chief Scout's 40-Year Certificate in 2004 and, the final accolade, the Silver Wolf in 2005. Well done Gerry. . . . Thanks for the great friendship. . . You will never be forgotten.

Frank Woods (DDC)

Appointments

Sarah Waldock GSL 2nd Willingdon
Darryl Smith Occasional
Helper 23rd Eastbourne
Andrew Barns ABSL 1st Anderida

Changes of Appointments

Lianne Conway - GSL 1st Seaside
Claire Jobling – CSL 3rd Eastbourne
Lizabeth White -Group Asst. 3rd Ebn
Mark Osborne – CSL 11th Eastbourne
Lesley Jones - ACSL 11th Eastbourne

Thank you to you all for taking on these roles, I am particularly pleased to welcome two new Group Scout Leaders, Lianne and Sarah, to the District Management Team and look forward to working with them both to help support their respective Scout Groups. DC

Service Awards

The following service awards have been received and presented which shows tremendous dedication and support to Scouting, which is truly appreciated. DC

Virginia Moon 1st Polegate 15 years
Barbara Sutton 1st Polegate 15 years
Adam Ranger 1st Polegate 5 years

Scout Section Report

PLS Training Weekend

The Scouts had their PL training course at Bushy Wood on 13th/14th March. The course was attended by 46 Scouts from 7 troops from all over the District. On Friday evening the Scouts had team building games and got to know the other Scouts in their groups who they would be working with over the weekend. On Saturday morning the Scouts moved round bases on axe, knife, saw work, fire lighting, tent pitching and catering & food hygiene, where they prepared the food for the evening meal. Saturday afternoon they had leadership/teamwork bases where they concentrated on styles of communication and leadership skills. On Saturday evening as with adult training weekend courses we ended with a banquet with formal toasts and certificate presentations. The Scouts came away having learnt lots of new skills and made lots more friends within the District. Many thanks to Marc Fallon for putting the weekend together and all the Leaders that gave up their time to help over the weekend.

Scout Leaders Dinner

The Scout Leaders held their spring dinner at the Red Lion Wish Hill on Saturday 21st March. Fifteen Leaders

attended. We had a very nice 3 course meal which the new owners had put together for us and it gave us all a chance to catch up socially and for new Leaders to get to know everyone.

Resident of the month

You may have seen in the local paper an article about Kyle Wells who became resident of the month for writing an award winning story that was chosen from 2000 entries all over the country. Many of you, particularly Scout Leaders, will have met Kyle at Scout events as he is a Scout at 1st Old Town. Kyle has Asperger's and has been a Scout at Old Town for 18 months. If you see Kyle please mention his achievement as he will be really pleased that you know about it. It was a great achievement for Kyle and his mum Emma is so proud of him and is pleased that people can see that even with conditions such as Asperger's these things can be achieved. Kyle has gained a lot from his Scouting and has participated in things that he has never done before and is having great fun enjoying his Scouting experiences. Kyle has now been put forward in the paper as one of the people to be voted as resident of the year. So again if you see Kyle mention his award and he will be really made up.

Bev Levett ADC (Scouts)

Tel: 01323 749640

Email: beverly@levett1720.fsnet.co.uk

Beaver Scout Sleepover

The following are accounts from Beaver Scouts from 1st Polegate who attended the recent County Beaver Scout Sleepover:

"On the 7th March 1st Polegate Beaver Scout Colony arrived at Broadstone Warren for our cowboys and Indians sleepover. We dumped our bags in Woodpecker's room then headed off for lunch. After lunch we played games with the leaders who were dressed up as cowboys and Indians. We had lots of fun. We made dream catchers, totum poles and pasta necklaces. We played more games and watched a film. We got very muddy and there was lots of snoring! Thank you to Rainbow and Woodpecker and everyone that made our weekend the best!"

"I went for my first sleepover with Beavers at Broadstone Warren. After a long drive with my dad we got there and it looked very big. First we all had a look around and found where we were sleeping. Next we had our lunch and then looked at the activities which were great fun. My favourite was the rocket

one. I had fun getting muddy, too. After sausage for dinner we went for a walk. We had to use our torches to see the deer in the dark. Next we sang songs around the campfire, had a cup of hot chocolate and then it was bedtime. On Sunday I was the first one awake. Breakfast was fab. I had Coco Pops and eggy bread. We went for a walk and played more games. Then it was time for mums and dads to collect us. Thank you to everybody. I had a great time and really enjoyed myself."

"I got in the car with my two heavy bags and set off. I was in the car for half an hour and finally arrived. Once I was there I walked with my friend to our rooms. Then we went to the lunch room where we had our lunch out of McDonald's boxes. After lunch we were sorted into groups and went to the activities like horseshoe throwing, canoe race, Teepee's workshop, bow and arrows, tin-can alley, and water rockets. We then got our boots and went for a walk in the dark with our torches. When we got back we had dinner and then went in another hall and sang campfire songs round the electric fire. After that we watched a film and then went to bed. The next morning I woke up and got dressed and had some nice toast for breakfast. We then put our boots and coats on and went outside. I saw the aeroball, swimming pool, grass sledging and more. We went back to the games hall and played something similar to dodge ball and then we went to the hall and had chocolate biscuits, were given a certificate and a badge and were picked up by our parents and went home. It was a great two days!"

RED NOSE DAY

The 2nd Willingdon Cubs raised money for RED NOSE DAY. The idea was to come in PJ's or fancy dress, build a den out of newspaper and have a midnight feast. When they were in their dens, we put out the lights, they played with their torches and ate, what else does a Cub like to do?

EASTBOURNE SCOUTING NEWS

The deadline for contributions for the May edition is 21st April.

Editor

Roger Gibbs, 13 Cormorant Close,
Eastbourne, BN23 7SG

☎ 01323 762898

e-mail: rogergibbs@f2s.com