

Spring 2017



## Petersham and Ham Sea Scouts newsletter

SPRING is finally here and while Scouting is for all seasons, there's nothing as special as seeing Douglas Meadow and the riverside come back into bloom. And just like the Spring buds which grow and flower, our troop members have been growing up and getting out into the world - while new ones have joined and are beginning their journeys with us.

We love hearing how our Scouts are getting on once they've left so do read the update from Alex Allen below, explaining how being a P&H Sea Scout is helping him in his new life at University and beyond.

And whatever your story, do let us know so we can share it with the troop. Whether you're fundraising or having fun, on the river or in the park, please send in your photos and a few sentences to [pandhnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:pandhnewsletter@gmail.com). We look forward to hearing from you.

Many thanks and I'll see you at the Scout Hut

*Newsletter Editor*

*Jane Hamilton*

### TROOP NEWS

#### *THE FAMOUS FIVE*



THE Scout Association is delighted to announce that five well-known figures will be joining the Scout Ambassador team, to raise awareness of Scouting's invaluable work helping young people develop skills for life.

The new ambassadors are Paralympic gold medallist Ellie Simmonds, Olympic gold medallist Helen Glover, TV presenters Anita Rani and Steve Backshall, and adventurer Megan Hine. They join current Scout Ambassadors, including Chris Evans, Ed Stafford and Julia Bradbury, as positive role models for young people.

Chief Scout, Bear Grylls, was proud to welcome the five ambassadors to the Scouting family. 'Like our other volunteers and supporters, they are incredible role models for young people, embodying our values and inspiring the next generation,' he said. 'Each of them brings their own unique skills and talents and I know will help shine a light on Scouting's amazing work. Thank you to each and every one.'

Tim Kidd, UK Chief Commissioner, said that he hoped the ambassadors would inspire the volunteers and young people of the future. 'Along with our current ambassadors and volunteers, I know they will champion our Scout values and support us in growing the Movement, helping more young people develop skills for life,' Tim said.

There are currently over 46,000 young people on waiting lists to join Scout troops around the country, meaning more volunteers than ever are needed to help with the demand and give young people the opportunity to join the Scout Movement. If you know someone who can help volunteer, please contact [karinnoble@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:karinnoble@blueyonder.co.uk)



## THE ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF SCOUTING

ON FRIDAY December 2, the Troop took part in the annual Celebration of Scouting at St Peter's Church in Petersham. The service was led by Canon Tim Marwood and attended by the Mayor with Paul Kershaw, the Jack Petchey Award representative. Troop members wore full uniform and everyone present renewed their Promise. Along with Carol singing and the annual Auction of Promises afterwards, it was a splendid way to start the Festive season.



## TWEET TO THE TROOP

*DID you know we're on Twitter? Please follow @PetersHamScouts and share our news.*

## SCOUTING MAKES YOU HAPPY - OFFICIAL!

AMAZING new research has proved what we at P&H already know - that Scouting makes you happy.

Experts from Glasgow and Edinburgh universities have found former Scouts and Guides enjoy better mental health than their contemporaries, having an 18 per cent lower risk of suffering anxiety and mood disorders in middle age.

Researchers believe it is because the Scouting and Guiding movements get young people outdoors and appreciating nature. This is a habit they are likely to keep as adults which helps protect against mental health problems.

Those who joined other voluntary and church groups as children did not find the same benefit. The gains were found in the study of almost 10,000 people born in 1958 who joined the movement in the 1970s.

Lead researcher Professor Chris Dibben said: "It is quite startling that this benefit is found in people so many years after they have attended Guides or Scouts. We expect the same principles would apply today.

"So, given the high costs of mental ill health to individuals and society, a focus on voluntary youth programmes such as the Guides and Scouts might be very sensible."

The study in the Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health said that many of the elements which make up the Scout-Guide approach to youth development are implicated in better adult mental health. It cited examples such as exercise, nutrition and diet, contact with nature and the outdoors, positive social relationships, recreation, relaxation and stress management.

The movement's founder Robert Baden-Powell always insisted a Scout smiles and whistles under all circumstances, encouraging a positive outlook.

Chief Scout Bear Grylls said: 'The Scout Association is helping give young people the ability to develop mental well-being throughout their lives.'



**MERCI & MERCY by MAGGIE BODEN**

I WOULD like to extend my thanks to all those who donated food, supplies and money for the trip over to Calais, just a week before the refugee camp was dismantled. All transportable food and goods were distributed successfully. In total we raised £741.93 and after the ferry crossing and sleeping bag purchase we were left with £405.93 which we have donated to Safe Passage UK which exists to help unaccompanied child refugees and vulnerable adults in Europe to find safe, legal routes to the UK. You can find out more about their work here <http://safepassage.org.uk>

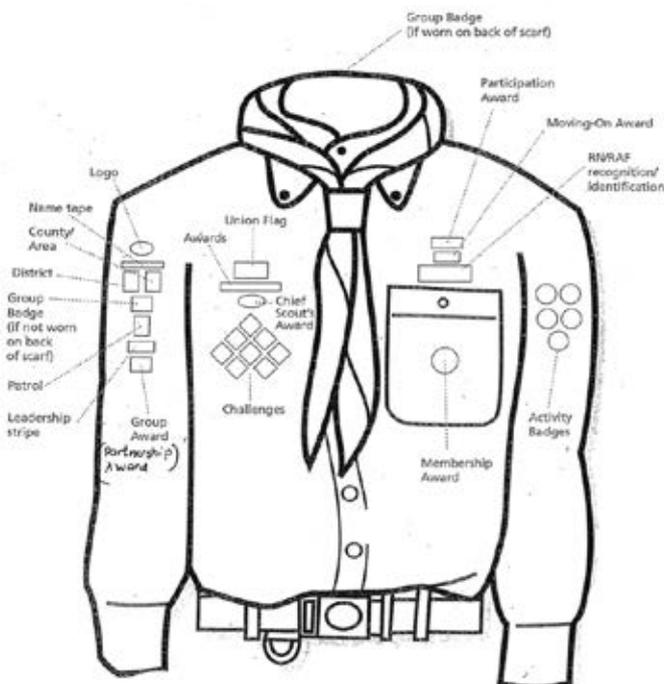
**SPEAR-HEADING CHANGE by KATE, SEA WOLVES**

THE Sea Wolves have made the streets safer for local homeless people by raising an incredible £261.72 for charity Spearlondon.org. The pack held a cake sale with all profits going directly to the charity. Thank you all very much for your generous donations of cakes and for all the time and effort you put into selling on the day. I think is an amazing result and I know it will be much appreciated by Spear.

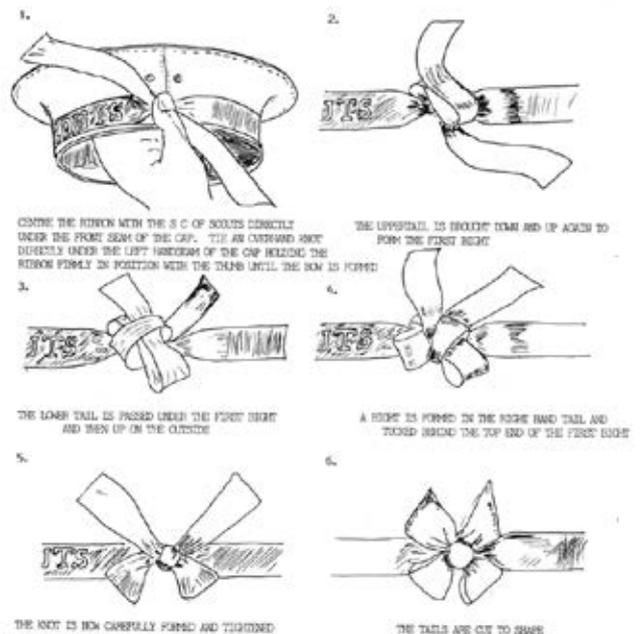
**HOW TO LOOK SHIPSHAPE by ROB GRUBER**

OLDER Cubs and Scouts are given the task of sewing on their own badges, so here's a handy guide to positioning your badges and how to tie the Tally Bands on your Sea Scouts Tatts. Hat's the way to do it!

Position of Badges and Awards for Scouts



TYING A CAP RIBBON





### ***KAYAK TO THE FUTURE - HOW P&H GAVE ME A SKILL FOR LIFE by ALEX ALLEN***

I WAS a Cub, Scout and Explorer at P&H for nine years between 1998 to 2007, from when I moved to Ham until I left to go to university. One of the biggest impacts P&H had on my life - other than the lifelong friends I made - was introducing me to and then nurturing my interest in kayaking. Kayaking was a big part of my childhood and as an adult I have got back into it and it is now a big part of life again. Being a Scout gave me the opportunity to try a range of different kinds of boating, from pulling to sailing, and even yachting and driving RHIBs, but a firm favourite of mine was always kayaking. When school asked me to pick which sport I wanted to do, I had no hesitation in my choice after all the fun I'd had at Scouts.



I continued kayaking at Scouts as well, and managed to build it into most parts of my Duke of Edinburgh's Award too. As well as getting into coaching other Scouts on the river, I also went on a number of amazing trips with other Scouts, from overnight expeditions to trips to whitewater centres.

I stopped kayaking when I went to university, mainly due to a lack of people to go paddling with, but a few years ago I settled down in an area having finished the graduate scheme I was on, and that gave me a chance to get back into kayaking. I joined a local club, and found it was just like riding a bike – all my old skills were still there. Since then I have started coaching again, taken up freestyle kayaking, and been on white water trips to Scotland and France. You can see me on 'Roostertail' on the Upper Roy in Scotland above. As well as the overt ways in which Scouting helped my kayaking, it has also helped in subtler ways: all the time spent planning hikes and going camping comes in handy when planning a paddling trip. This year I'm looking to spend a week each in Scotland, the Alps and Slovenia, so that's plenty of trip planning that needs doing.

### ***A THANK YOU TO OUR ARCHITECTS MCDANIEL WOOLF***

THANKS mainly to fires and German bombs, the Petersham and Ham Sea Scouts have been through six Scout huts in 106 years – hence the hut's name Phoenix. The current facilities in the beautiful Douglas House Meadow, Richmond, were built by the Scouts themselves over 50 years ago, but these are now worn out, small and basic. So McDaniel Woolf has been asked to help out. The meadow is in the Ham House Conservation Area and the new building will be in the same location, tucked away against the trees. As well as creating a larger main deck for indoor activities and games, the firm's design will include disabled access, separate toilet and changing for boys and girls, a more energy-efficient structure, sound-proofing, dry storage for camping equipment and space for boat storage and maintenance. The materials will be robust and redolent of naval architecture, to reflect the Sea Scout heritage. The hut will be energy efficient, as well as robust, to prevent any further fires!



## AWARDS & PRIZES

### *THE QUIZ KINGS AND QUEENS by AKELA CHRIS*

IN FEBRUARY the P&H Sea Hawks Cub Pack triumphed at the Richmond & District 2017 District Cub Scout Quiz to be the overall winners. Well done to Marlene, Isabel, Emily, Sebastian, Maeve and Matilda who scored 85.5 out of 90 and won by four points over St Mary Barnes.

Well done too to Maxwell, our super sub, who joined 2nd Teddington as they were short numbered and helped them come fourth. We're very proud of you all.

We now get to represent the District at the Greater London South West County Cub Scout Quiz - so we'll report back on how we get on.



## VISITS & ACTIVITIES

### *THE MUDLARKS MAKE A DIFFERENCE by ANNABEL HOBLEY*



FORGET messing about on the river! Back in November Saturday Cubs were busy working hard on the riverbed in the Thames Draw-Off. The annual event sees the river part-drained for a few hours and we teamed up with Richmond Environment Network to pick up rubbish and plastic and tyres from the floor of the Thames. Our strangest finds were a chef's hat and a motorcycle with no tyres. Hot chocolate and biscuits were needed afterwards!

### *WAT-ER AN AMAZING EFFORT by KATE (SEAWOLVES)*

AS PART of their Global Issues Badge the Cubs from Seawolves had a visiting speaker from the charity Water Aid. They learnt how access to clean drinking water, proper toilets and good hygiene can transform the lives of the world's poorest people.

The Cubs also heard how children in some countries often have to walk four miles a day just to get clean water so the following week the Seawolves did a walk along the river to symbolise this journey. After two miles they were glad to make it back to the hut and get a drink of water from the tap. Inspired



to help others, the Cubs designed their own labels for water bottles and used these for collecting their loose change. Between them they collected £60 for Water Aid which is enough to provide a safe water supply for four more people in the world.

**BY GEORGE! by TYLER STRIDE**

IT WAS my first time taking part in the annual district St George's Day Celebration of Scouting Parade and I was happy to be part of the celebration. It was amazing to see so many Scout groups in one place.



**GAME OF DRONES by RHIANNON BOARD**



IN OCTOBER the Beavers were treated to a talk and demonstration all about Drones. I'd like to say a huge thank you to Dylan's dad Mark who brought along the drone. It was amazing to see, the Beavers were enthralled and it was very kind of Mark to let everyone have a go.

**AMAZING ARRAN by KARIN NOBLE**

DURING the Easter holidays, the Scouts set off on their annual trip to the Isle of Arran, in the Western Isles of Scotland. With a population of just over 4,000 and rugged 109km coastline, it's a Sea Scouts paradise. Among the events we celebrated were climbing the 874m Goat Fell, a visit to Brodick Castle and Anika's birthday! We asked our intrepid explorers what makes Arran so special, and here's what they said:

**Alec ...the wonderful scenery**

**Anika ... I experienced tons of amazing walks and I also made some awesome friends**

**Lorenza ... staying in a youth hostel was a new and interesting experience**

**Val ... we saw a lot of amazing views and scenery**

**Yasmin ... I made friends and I loved climbing Goat Fell**

**Lottie ... the memories you make. The youth hostel was great**



Christian (Assistant Leader) writes:

"It was quite an experience spending a week with the Sea Scouts on the beautiful Isle of Arran. I was extremely impressed with their natural resilience and unbounded enthusiasm. They achieved so much. Goat Fell was a particularly challenging hike and they all did it, so they should be proud of themselves. Not only did I make some mementoes of the journey with my watercolours of a couple of the scenes but so did the Scouts. Our art classes were great fun. There are some splendid artistic Scouts in the Troop, so look out Damien Hirst!"



## **FUNDRAISING**

### **FUNDRAISING UPDATE by KARIN NOBLE**

PLANNING permission for the new Scout Hut will run out in August this year unless some building work has taken place, so I wanted to update you with where we are.

We have done amazingly well to raise about £350,000 towards the £756,000 plus VAT, the total cost, and all in three years. On top of this, our architect and surveyor have given more than £45,000 worth of voluntary contributions.

We have now exhausted making grant applications to the big potential funders. We do not meet the criteria for the Big Lottery or the London Marathon funds. The Awards for All Lottery and the Small London Marathon funds are still open to us but only if we can spend any award money within a short time limit. At this stage could not guarantee this as we can only start building when ALL funds are in place.

We are hoping to secure a low interest loan from the Scout Association and we have also entered the Shanly Foundation competition for the most imaginative design of a Scout building created by junior members. The results are not yet available, but we'll keep you posted on both.

Some potential funders like Richmond upon Thames Scout Council, Greater London South West Scout Council and the RPL Charity have indicated that they would help, but again only once more funds are in place.

At present, phasing the building project is under discussion. This is not ideal and may incur substantial extra costs, so to speed up our fundraising we have engaged a professional fundraiser to help us widen our scope and

reach our goal more quickly.

We are also trying other routes including:

- Asking our own membership if their employers match fund or give grants. Many do but it is not always publicised, so you need to enquire. Please enquire!
- Approaching local community organisations; faith groups, schools, clubs to see if they can help by giving the project publicity
- Applying to be in the Waitrose Green Tokens scheme
- Continuing to seek out charitable trusts we can apply to for funding
- Involving junior membership in all the usual fundraising activities: selling refreshments, jumble sales, sponsored events.
- Asking for interest free loans to be paid back over a period of time. (Scouts have an income from renting out the premises to members of the community)
- And unlikely as it may seem, we are still investigating the whereabouts of a Spitfire that is said to be buried in the Scout field! It could be worth a small fortune!

If you can help fundraise in any way, please get in touch with me at [karinnoble@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:karinnoble@blueyonder.co.uk)

## **FUNDRAISING 2 - WHAT WE'VE RAISED**

### **NOT SUCH A SILENT NIGHT by MAGGIE BODEN**

THE Carol Singing at Petersham Nurseries on December 1 raised a healthy £171.62. Many thanks to everyone who took part.

### **GOING, GOING, GONE INTO THE BANK!**

OUR annual Auction of Promises on December 2 was an amazing success and has helped boost the Troop's funds. With almost 40 lots, we raised an incredible £1,080. Many thanks to Alex Perrin for his auctioneering skills and for all who donated and bought promises. And Barclays Bank in Richmond has offered to match funds up to £1,000, doubling our total take.



### ***CHEERS! by ANNABEL BARNET***

IT'S a hard way to raise money but someone has to do it! I'd like to say Cheers to everyone who participated in the wine tasting event at Taylor's wine merchants in Ham Parade on Wednesday 14th December. It was a lovely evening. For a £10 fee we were treated to a wonderful selection of 21 samples including; sparkling, red, white, dessert and fortified wines from around the world along with a variety of spirits. Nibbles were also provided and Catherine Coyne (redgatebakery@icloud.com) generously donated a selection of delicious home baked breads. After costs, £140 was raised for the Phoenix building project.

## **FUNDRAISING 3 - HOW YOU CAN HELP**

### ***GET ACTIVE***

SAINBURY'S are once again issuing Active Kids Vouchers so please collect them each time you shop and bring them along to the Scout Hut. A new hut deserves new equipment and these vouchers can be really helpful. There is a collection box on top of the coat hooks in the main room.

### ***IN THE NAVY!***

GET in the swim with the new Petersham and Ham Sea Scouts apparel. The Navy Blue hoodies are the height of Scouts fashion and are available in both adult and children's sizes.

You can also be King - or Queen - of the grill in our trendy new Navy Aprons, as modelled by Paul Newcombe above. Sizes and costs are below. To order, let your leader know which items / sizes you want, and supply payment by cheque or into the Troop Uniform bank account.

#### **HOODIES**

**Adult Sizes (XS, S, M, L, XL, XXL).....£22.00**

**Children Sizes (5-6, 7-8, 9-10, 11-12, 13).....£18.00**

**KIDS FLEECE - £23**

**NAVY APRON WITH EMBROIDERED PHOENIX - £14**





### **EASY MONEY!**

DO YOU use the internet to shop? Then you can help us raise cash without giving us a penny!

How? Just use the EasyFundraising web shopping portal. Simply sign up at <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/panel/> and register yourself under the option Petersham and Ham Sea Scouts – we're listed on the site.

You'll receive an email to confirm your registration and to download the Easy Fund Raising Toolbar. Then each time you shop online on a site that supports Easy Fundraising, it will appear at the top of your browser window and ask whether or not you want to donate before you go shopping.

Over 3,000 retailers from big names to local artisans are listed, and you can donate around £100 a year for the average shopper. Think how much we could raise if every P&H family signed up.

So get started - it's easy PC!

### **BE A BRICK AND BUY A BRICK**

WOULD you like you or your child's name carved into the new Scout Hut for future generations to see?

For just £25, you can Buy a Brick which will have the name of your choice etched into it. The money will be used to help build the New Phoenix and ensure every P&H member has the most modern facilities to enjoy.

To find out more or sign up, please email [karinnoble@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:karinnoble@blueyonder.co.uk)

### **HELPING HANDS - VOLUNTEER POSTS - DO YOUR BIT!**

**HAM FAIR on SATURDAY JUNE 10** - Can you volunteer to work on the P&H stall or bake cakes to sell? Please let Karin know on [karinnoble@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:karinnoble@blueyonder.co.uk)

**RICHMOND REGATTA on SATURDAY JUNE 24** - Helpers needed to sell refreshments on the riverbank. Please email Karin on [karinnoble@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:karinnoble@blueyonder.co.uk) to sign up

**THE GREAT RIVER RACE on SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 9** - Volunteers needed to row and to sell refreshments on the riverbank. More than 300 traditional rowing boats will be taking part in this event starting in London Docklands and finishing at the end of the by 21.6 mile course at Ham House. The entry fee for adults is £74 including £10 charge for having boats towed from Ham to the start. P&H have three four-oared boats that can be used by our Leaders and parents, one Jolly boat and two Thames skiffs. Each crew consists of four rowers, one helm and one passenger. Passenger and helm can swap over and take their turn rowing. Interested in taking part?

Please email Karin on [karinnoble@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:karinnoble@blueyonder.co.uk) to sign up



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### **SATURDAY MAY 13**

*Football Tournament at Kew and Ham Football Club. 3pm to 5pm. Entry £5 per person.*

### **SUNDAY MAY 14**

*AGM and Family Open Day, including boating. 2pm at the Scout Hut, Douglas Meadow*

### **SATURDAY JUNE 10**

*Ham Fair. See above to volunteer on the P&H Stall.*

### **FRIDAY JULY 7 to SUNDAY JULY 9**

*Borough Camp for Cubs and Scouts*

### **SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 9**

*The Great River Race*

### **SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 16 to SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 17**

*Family Camp at Scout Hut / Douglas Meadow. Richmond Runfest, Half Marathon will be coming through field on the Sunday morning*

## PHOTO GALLERY

HERE'S a snapshot of what we've been up to. To see your picture in the frame for the next edition, please email it to [pandhnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:pandhnewsletter@gmail.com) with a short article telling us who's in it and what you're doing!



PETERSHAM AND HAM SEA SCOUTS LEADERS OUT ON A SUNDAY ROWING SESSION



SEA WOLVES FACE PAINTING AND T-SHIRT PRINTING IN MARCH



SEA SERPENTS IRONING THEIR SCARVES FOR THEIR HOME HELP BADGE



SATURDAY CUBS DISPLAYING THEIR BOOKS FOR THE BOOK READER BADGE



SEA WOLVES, WEDNESDAY CUBS BATIK



PETERSHAM HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY IN THE SCOUT FIELD SEED SOWING FOR CHILDREN

## PHOTO GALLERY



ALBERT FROM SPEAR, THE CHARITY FOR THE HOMELESS, TALKING TO SATURDAY CUBS ABOUT HOMELESSNESS IN RICHMOND DURING THEIR CARDBOARD CAMP IN FEBRUARY.



RUFUS MAKING PANCAKES FOR BREAKFAST DURING THE SATURDAY CUBS CARDBOARD CAMP



SATURDAY CUBS PREPARING TO SERVE DRINKS FOR THE HALF MARATHON RUNNERS COMING THROUGH THE SCOUT FIELD IN FEBRUARY



SCOUTS DOING ARCHERY AT HAM AND PETERSHAM RIFLE RANGE IN FEBRUARY