

Spring 2016



## Petersham and Ham Sea Scouts newsletter

WELCOME to the Spring edition of the Petersham & Ham Sea Scouts Newsletter. We hope you all had a cracking Easter and are looking forward to making the most of the sunny days ahead!

As always, we have lots of exciting news to share - but to make it happen and to keep on growing the Troop so more children can benefit, we need YOUR help. Please do read Karin's letter to all our parents and helpers in the Helping Hands section below.

And don't forget we're already taking articles and photos for our Summer newsletter, so do send in your contribution to [pandhnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:pandhnewsletter@gmail.com)

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

*Jane Hamilton*

*Newsletter Editor*

### TROOP NEWS

#### **PHOENIX RISING**



SEEING is believing - and here's the latest image of how our planned new Scout Hut and boating facility will look. The image, kindly sent by Richard Woolf of McDaniel Woolf Architects, shows how the airy and modern design will blend perfectly with the natural setting of the Scout Meadow.

For an update on how you can help P&H raise the much-needed final funds, pop down to the Fundraising section below.



#### **R.I.P AMBER**

SADLY we also have some tragic news to share with the troop. Much-loved former Scout Amber Kijowski has died aged just 19, after taking a tranquiliser substance at a party. Her family inform us she collapsed and never woke up again. The troop will remember Amber with much love and as someone who brought joy to every occasion. She was a keen Scout and Explorer participating in camps including the one in Vancouver, Canada in 2010. And Amber was also talented artist who loved drawing and reading. Our sympathy goes out to her distraught family.

In Loving Memory of



**AMBER ROSE KIJOWSKI**

31st August 1996 - 15th January 2016



## **QUARTER OF SCOUTS NOW GIRLS**

GIRL power! Girls now make up a quarter of all Scouts, with young women accounting for almost three-quarters of the association's new youth recruits, new figures show. Scouting experts said the trend is due in part to the 'Kate effect', which saw an increase in members after the Duchess of Cambridge volunteered as a leader in her local Cub group in 2013.

In the 25 years since the Scout Association first admitted girls, the numbers have steadily grown. Last year 5,572 were female joiners out of the 7,851 new recruits.

Scouts spokesman Simon Carter said: "We have positive role models in our leadership positions - for instance, Hannah Kentish was appointed as UK youth commissioner two years ago. And we also make sure what we offer is exciting and relevant and positive for girls.

"It's really important that we attract boys; we're not a girls' organisation, we believe in co-education. We've still got a way to go before we get to parity."

## **MONDAY CUBS SET BADGE CHALLENGE** *by SARAH ELVISS*

MONDAY cubs have been asked to set their own personal targets for gaining Cub Scout Badges. Cubs are able to complete badge work at home, in our sessions on Mondays or through District events such as the Science Day. The opportunities are endless!

Activity Badges such as Book Reader, Collector or Home Help can be achieved over a period of time and if your child regularly attends a sports club, they can work towards the Sports Enthusiast, Water Activities, Martial Arts, Equestrian or Athletics Activity Badges.

Need to find out more? Visit: <http://bit.ly/1T1POPV>

## **THE WILDEST BIRTHDAY EVER**

100 not out! This year is the centenary of the Cub Scouts and we're planning a huge party to celebrate. Cubs across the globe will join in local and national celebration, dubbed 'The Wildest Birthday Ever'.

Among the special birthday treats lined up is a unique Cubs 100 Badge, adventure camps and locally organised 'Thanks Events' that recognise the millions of people who have made Cub Scouts a success over the past one hundred years.

There will also be a national Promise Party celebration that will include a Promise renewal, to be held on 16 December 2016 at 7.16pm, to commemorate the official registration date of the Cub Scout section.

You can find out more at: <http://bit.ly/1NDXvKe>

## **SUBS INCREASE by SVEN STRASSBURG,** *Chairman of the Group Executive Committee* **for P&H**

Dear Parent, I write to advise of an increase in the subscription from £8 per month to £10 per month, payable by standing order and effective from September 2016.

This is the first increase in subscriptions for five years and reflects the impact of rising costs during this period. Presently the subscription of £96 per annum is disbursed as follows:

Annual Capitalisation of £39 for every junior member, comprised of £25 to the Scout Association HQ for insurance and services, £2 to the Country, Greater London SW and £12 for the Richmond Upon Thames Scouting District. The balance of £57 is a little over £1 a week and is used to pay for badges, scarves and expenses for running weekly programmes.

No member of our group is paid, all are volunteers.

If you are unable to pay, please let your section leader know in confidence.

Thank you.



## AWARDS & PRIZES

### **SILVER SCOUTS AWARDS by SARA ALATASSI**

CONGRATULATIONS go to two of our Sea Wolves who have earned their Chief Scout Silver Award. The prestigious prize is very special and takes a lot of hard work to achieve. Ben Luca won the prize for achieving seven Challenge Awards (including the Teamwork, Team Leader and Personal Challenge), seven Staged Activity badges earned plus many more Activity badges.

Meanwhile George also achieved seven Challenge Awards (including Teamwork, Team leader and personal challenge), seven Staged Activity badges and a large number of activity badges.

Pam Dixon, Assistant District Commissioner for Cubs, presented the hardworking Cubs with the certificate and badges. Both Cubs have shown exemplary enthusiasm, hard work and involvement in all Cubs activities. Well done both of you!

### **LORENZA'S LONDON OUTING by CON O'BRIEN**

GENEROUS Scout Lorenza from Phoenix III spent her Jack Petchey Award money taking the Scouts to the London Dungeons. The Scouts were a great bunch, very well behaved and nobody got lost. Even more importantly, no one got left behind in the spooky Dungeons!



### **NIGHT HIKE COMPETITION by CON O'BRIEN**

TWO teams from P&H competed in the Night Hike competition in March. A total of 43 teams took part in the challenge - but 15 didn't complete the course. I'm very proud to announce that Petersham & Ham B took fourth place, with a time of 4'11" and 437 points total, which is a fantastic result.

Petersham & Ham A came in 25th place, with a time of 4'32" and 282 points total. The A team would have done just as well, but they had a mix up on the first leg which cost them about 40 minutes, so they made up great time!

The winning team (13th Wimbledon A) completed the course in 4'09" and earned 444 points

Congratulations to everyone for completing the hike, it was a tough course and a late night but you all kept together well in your groups and helped each other out, well done.

Thank you too to the parents for your patience on the night - it was very difficult to estimate pickup times. I think next year we might plan to camp the night

### **OUR SUPER HIKE TEAMS:**

**Team A - starting 7.00pm**

**Helena, Lottie, Anika  
Imogen, Cressida, Max, Vincent**

**Team B - starting 7.45pm**

**Lorenza, Alyssa, Maja,  
Moritz, Sebastian, Valentin**



## **FUNDRAISING**

### **NEW PHOENIX UPDATE by KARIN NOBLE**

OUR fundraising effort for the new Scout Hut has been given a considerable boost after one very generous local resident pledged an amazing £40,000. But we are still £280,000 short of the £600,000 sum needed to see our 'New Phoenix' building rise. If you'd like to help the fundraising effort or have an idea on how we can raise money, please get in touch at [www.pandh.org.uk](http://www.pandh.org.uk) or email [karinnoble@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:karinnoble@blueyonder.co.uk)

### **AUCTION OF PROMISES by KARIN NOBLE**

WE PROMISED the troop an exciting night and our annual Auction of Promises in December didn't disappoint. With prizes on offer ranging from a private brewery tour to car washing and a hamper of luxury foods, the evening raised an impressive £1,300. Among the top earners was a voucher for a meal at the Petersham Nursery which fetched £245. The event relies on troop members and supporters to donate the promises, so thank you to everyone who donated, attended and placed a bid on a promise.

### **JUMBLE SALE by KARIN NOBLE**



ONE MAN'S trash is another's treasure, as our annual March Jumble Sale proved. The event at Greycourt School saw hundreds of local bargain hunters turn out to bag coats, bric a brac and books from just 50p. Saturday Cubs spent their normal Pack Meeting on Saturday setting up for the afternoon jumble sale, dragging tables into position, carrying bags of jumble and laying it all out on the tables in an orderly fashion ready for the punters to descend. By 10.30 all was ready, with nothing more to be done apart from a few late deliveries of jumble to be dealt with. The doors opened at 2pm and the crowds flooded in, enjoying delicious homemade cakes as refreshment. By 4pm we'd almost sold out and started bagging up any leftover items for Bags4Schools. At 4.45 all was spic and span ready for Monday school lunches! In total we raised £506.70 while the Bags4Schools collection will add another £50. A very big thank you to all who gave their time, made cakes and donated jumble.

### **IN THE NAVY!**

GET in the swim with the new Petersham and Ham Sea Scouts Hoodies. Available in both adult and children's sizes, the smart Navy Blue hoodies are the height of Scouts fashion.



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

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

Order now - letting us know the size you need and giving us your payment - to your group Leader.



## ACTIVE KIDS VOUCHERS

HELP P&H play well for less by donating your Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers. The current collection finishes on May 3 so please check your shopping bags and kitchen drawers to see if you have any spares. Every voucher counts towards vital sports equipment. Please pass on your vouchers to Karin, your leader or pop them through Karin's letterbox at 13 Sandy Lane.

## EASY MONEY FOR P&H!

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!

## PRETTY AS A PICTURE

### *PAYING HOMAGE TO BADEN POWELL, THE FOUNDER OF SCOUTING by Karin Noble*

IT WAS February 2016 when we found ourselves on the way to Nyeri, Kenya. We were heading NW, leaving behind us the chaotic traffic of Nairobi and carefully negotiating the potholed road lined with store holders offering the produce of their summer harvest - anything from citrus fruits, pineapples mangoes, rice, charcoal and lastly bananas.

We stopped the car and winding down a widow were immediately surrounded by African ladies holding up huge hands of ripe bananas for sale. After careful inspection we decided on two hands paying 100 shillings each, 70p in our currency.

On reaching Nyeri at the foot of Mount Kenya we located Baden Powell's grave in the overgrown British graveyard of St Peter's church, tucked away at the end of a path lined with boards inscribed with the Scout and Guide laws.

Surrounded by a low bamboo fence, a simple large white stone with the tracking symbol 'gone home' at the bottom - a circle with a dot in the centre - marked his grave. When his wife Olave died in 1977 her ashes were sent to Kenya to be interred with her husband's remains.

At the age of 82 BP retired to Kenya at the onset of the Second World War in 1939, a place on a high plateau with a gentle climate, beautiful scenery and a safe haven from the unrest in Europe. He lived in a 'Paxtu' a small cottage built for him, now a museum, and part of the Outspan Hotel in Nyeri. He died in 1941.

BP's spirit is still alive in the Scout and Guide movement all over the world. Long may he continue to inspire our young people to come together for fun, friendship, respecting each other and the environment.





### **ADVENTURES ON THE ISLE OF ARRAN by CON O'BRIEN**

THE Scots Isle of Arran is the largest island in the Firth of Clyde and a place of unparalleled wild beauty. Almost every year we take the Scouts on a camp to teach them survival and outdoor skills.

And with an area of 432 square kilometres, mountains, heathland and streams, there's so much to see!

This April our Scouts enjoyed a range of activities. We heard from the Coast Guard volunteers who live on the Island and taught us First Aid skills, and did voluntary work cutting down *Rhododendron ponticum*, an invasive species threatening the local native plantlife.

We trekked up the formidable 874-metre high Goat Fell, the highest point on the Island and enjoyed some incredible views. And we had a wonderful walk along the coast from Lochranza to Sannox, tucking into our lunch in the handily-placed wind shelter of Laggan Cottage.

We can't wait to go back again next year!



### **PETERSHAM NURSERIES CAROL CONCERT by MAGGIE BODEN**

CAROL singing at Petersham Nurseries is now an annual fixture for P&H. Who can resist chestnuts roasting on an open fire, a good sing song and a chance to raise money for the new Scout Hut. Come and join us next year!

### **POLO WAS MINT By ALEC HAMILTON**



THE horses at Ham Polo club love polo for two reasons. Not only is it the name of the game they play, the horses also love to eat Polo Mints as a treat. This is one of the fascinating facts Sea Serpents learned on our visit to Ham Polo Club on November 7. We were shown round by Robert Allton, General Manager, of the stables. He told us all polo players have to be right handed and players train from a very young age to get good enough to play international matches. There are five players on each team - any more and the horses may crash into each other on the field! Each section of the game is called a Chukka. If you'd like to give it a go you can even pay for a lesson at the club - or win one in our next P&H Auction of Promises. It was a great day!

## CARDBOARD CAMPS



YOU'LL never be BOARD with P&H - and here's two great reasons why. Thursday Cubs and Saturday Cubs both took part in Cardboard Camps to raise money for homeless charities.

The camps see our young fundraisers sleep rough under sheets of cardboard inside the Scout Hut, so they realise the hardships those less fortunate are facing. Each Cub raises his or her own sponsorship money which is donated to homeless charities.

The THURSDAY Cubs Cardboard Camp took place overnight on February 26. Before bedding down for the night, the Cubs visited the Memorial Gardens by the Everyday Church in Kingston where supporters of the YMCA Challenge to support the homeless had installed themselves inside their very own cardboard boxes to experience what it was like for the real homeless.

To give them a challenge they had their 'luxuries'; sleeping bags, scarves and hats taken away from them. To retrieve them they had to sing in public and beg for money. They were given food - just cheap plain biscuits!

The SATURDAY Cubs Cardboard Camp took place the week before the THURSDAY Cubs. Parents raided their cupboards and donated all kinds of packaged foods including pasta, chickpeas, pasta sauces and biscuits for the Spear food bank in Richmond. Spear will also have a donation of £88 for their funds.

As part of the Camp, Cubs hiked into Richmond Park to take part in shelter building, with Rebecca teaching knots to build tarpaulin shelters using two trees close together as supports.

Louis, a volunteer from Spear, answered questions from Cubs on homelessness - and the Cubs enjoyed an egg bread breakfast cooked in the Scoutfield for campers.

Our young Cubs have slept easy so that others do not have to sleep rough - and we should be proud of them all.



### **SEAWOLVES POPPY FACTORY VISIT by KATE RHODES**

ON THURSDAY February 18, the Cubs from Seawolves visited the Poppy Factory. After a warm welcome with squash and biscuits we were given a presentation about how the Poppy Factory came to exist, what they do and how, plus why the poppy came to symbolize remembering the fallen and supporting the wounded.

Then we were taken on a tour of the factory floor where we all had a chance to make our own poppy using only one hand. This was a surprisingly quick and easy operation, but then we learnt the reason for that - so that veterans with only one hand could assemble them.

After the tour, we were shown how the poppies and leaves are pressed out of rolls of sheeting and one of the members of staff from the Royal Signals told us how the wreathes are made.

Finally we got to see some framed real poppies which soldiers had picked from the front in 1917 and then pressed to send to their wives or girlfriends. It was an emotional and moving tour for all the Cubs and helpers and we'd like to thank the Poppy Factory for showing us around.

### **2016 SWIMMING GALA AT HMS RALEIGH, TORPOINT, PLYMOUTH by LORENZA and FRANCESCA**



OVER 100 Admiralty Recognised Sea Scout Troops took part in the Gala, making up 19 teams. Troops travelled from as far away as Warwick and we were one of four London-based teams.

It was very fun, the staff were kind and we made lots of new friends who lived in places all over the country. As a whole, it was a very unique experience.

### **MAY THE ART BE WITH YOU**

IN MARCH renowned local artist Tim Woodman visited the Friday Beaver Colony. Tim, who lives in Teddington, talked to the Beavers about his work and what inspired him to first pick up a brush. Then under his guidance Beavers used watercolours to paint scenes from Star Wars. It was a wonderful evening and the children left the event feeling very inspired



### **MONDAY BEAVERS AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY**

On Monday March 7, Monday Beavers enjoyed a cooking session making chocolate sweets organised by Joanna, Luke's mum. They said goodbye to Sam and David who were helping out over the last few weeks for their service section of the D of E award.





## HELPING HANDS

### *MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK by KARIN NOBLE*

NOVEMBER saw a few hardy helpers volunteer to clear the Scout Field path of leaves. This vital work by a few people meant the rest of the Troop could enjoy the facilities safely.

While we were happy to do the work, we really did need more people to take part and help out. If we had more people, we could have finished the whole of the path from the German School to the towpath. We also needed more leaves for composting to spread on the water logged, compacted areas of our meadow.

So much more can be done when we all join forces and come forward when appeals are made for help. Nothing comes without a cost.



Remember, when you signed up your children with Scouts you were asked if you could be a Leader or could help out in some small way.

We do appreciate many of you work long hours to earn the pennies and will not be back in time for meetings but there are other ways you can help out.

All our section leaders are volunteers. Contrary to popular belief they do not get paid. Thanks to the fabulous programmes they organise and the time they give 'free', your children are having the most fantastic time with their friends, learning new skills, exploring the local area and community.

We need - and indeed expect - all our parents to volunteer when needed; helping out at section meetings, outings, camps and fundraising events.

Here is also your big chance to play your part in making the 'New Phoenix' Scout Hut building project a reality. So please, engage in a fundraising event, talk to your employers if they have any charity giving schemes, buy a brick to have your name inscribed.

Why not make a gift of your time, your skill and your talent to Petersham and Ham Sea Scouts? You, your child and all the rest of us at Petersham and Ham Sea Scouts will be the beneficiaries.



### **SCORE FOR P&H!**

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

MAY 7 sees the New Phoenix Six-A-Side Football fundraising event. Taking place from 12 noon on the all-weather football pitches in Ham, we urgently need the following helpers:

- Referees
- Players
- Sell raffle tickets
- BBQ cooks

Please sign up at [csgcse.co.uk/footy](http://csgcse.co.uk/footy)

HERE are our current P&H volunteer vacancies. Please email [karinnoble@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:karinnoble@blueyonder.co.uk) if you can help.

- 1) DO YOU have spare clock which we can hang up on the Scout Hut main deck?
- 2) ARE you good with figures? The Troop needs a volunteer to keep the sections' account for payments for uniforms, camps, badges and miscellaneous sections' expenses.
- 3) QUARTERMASTER needed to sort out the chaos on the boat deck and the mower shed!
- 4) CAN you volunteer to approach local businesses to support our fundraising? We have a handy guide from Richmond Council to make it easy for you.

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

*SATURDAY APRIL 30 - Cubs Ham House Sleepover*

*SATURDAY MAY 7 - Six a side football tournament in Ham*

*SUNDAY MAY 15 - Family Open Day*

*SATURDAY MAY 28 to MONDAY MAY 30 - Cubs' Centenary Camp at Walton Firs*

*SUMMER HALF TERM - Scouts at Summer Camp HMS Bristol*

*FRIDAY JUNE 3 to SUNDAY JUNE 5 - Thames Young Mariners Water Camp*

*SATURDAY JUNE 11 - P&H stall at Ham Fair*

*FRIDAY JULY 1 to SUNDAY JULY 3 - Borough Camp*

*SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 17 to SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 18 - Family camp in Douglas House Meadow*

*SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 24 - Chessington Zoo Cub Centenary Celebration*

## 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 [pandnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:pandnewsletter@gmail.com) with a short caption telling us who's in it and what you're doing!



Friday Beavers try foods of the world at a delicious tasting event



Sea Serpents Cubs and Monday Beavers at their Christmas Party. Andy Thomas, Beaver Leader said goodbye to the Colony. He will move to the Sea Serpents Cub Pack as Cub Scout Leader



Saturday Cubs saying thank you to Caron for all the work she has done keeping records for badge work



Saturday Cubs showing off the Christmas crackers they made with Sandra



Saturday Beavers enjoying their Christmas party



Sea Wolves Cubs at their Christmas Party



Sea Wolves saying goodbye to Morgan and Beau moving up to Phoenix II, Tuesday Troop



Thursday Cubs sitting down to feast on their party food



The Seawolves Cubs enjoying an evening of musical entertainment, singing and playing their instruments for their musician badges. Ten earned stage 1 and 3 stage 2 of the 5 stage badges.



Martha of Monday Cubs with her donut pancake