

September 2007

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GSLs report

This month we are reporting on the continuing success of the Group and some of the temporary hiccups that have beset us over the last few weeks.

Please do not leave it to the dedicated few to try to carry the load because they will fail! Together we can overcome these problems and move into the second century of Scouting as an even stronger Group offering even more opportunities to the young people involved.

Just look at the "Dates for your Diary" to see what is on offer, this is due to the dedicated leader team we have and they now need your help!

We desperately need a new HQ, we need more support for our present leaders and, if we are going to offer good Scouting to even more youngsters, we need a few more volunteers who are willing to give up a few hours a week to be trained as leaders and reap the rewards!

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Dates for your Diary

9 th September	Water Skiing / Church Parade
22 nd	Jumble Sale
28-30 th	Water Weekend
12 th October	District Cub Night Hike
14 th	Church Parade / District Scout tin can trophy
19-21 st	Jamboree on the Air/Air rifle camp & comp.
3 rd November	Fireworks Display and Funfair
10 th	Guide Jumble Sale
11 th	Church Parade / Remembrance Parade
17 th	District Swimming Gala (all except Beavers)

December & 2008 – to come next month!

A Challenging Future – double whammy!!

Our application for a £250,000 lottery grant (from the Community Buildings Fund) towards our new headquarters has been rejected. Around the same time a £10,000 application to the Small Lottery Fund for equipment to support the growth of Scouts and increase in number of patrols in the Scout Troop was also rejected.

This means that our new building will not follow on from the church development and we will have to pay around £100,000 for setting up and making good when we finally get our new HQ. In addition we will need to find the funds to buy the equipment required (mainly tents and other camping equipment) to continue to provide a good programme.

There is no appeal process so we have to 'grin and bear it' and move forward!

To meet this challenge we need everyone to help, from the youngest Beaver to Grandparents, friends and supporters.

We need to beat apathy as well as inflation! We have already raised about £130,000 towards our overall target of about £640,000 – not such a huge sum in this day and age particularly when you look at all the ways in which we can raise the money. To help us achieve this we have a good reputation and lots of latent support throughout the area.

We run the Epsom Fireworks Display and Funfair (3rd November 2007) and every additional programme sold is another £4 profit! We need people to –

- Deliver programmes to shops and then collect the unsold ones
- Help with the Marketing of the Display
- Help on the day and clearing up on the Sunday

We run the local Community Christmas Post Scheme and every additional item posted is another 15p profit (every penny counts!). We need people to –

- Put the letter boxes into shops and collect them at the end of the scheme
- Co-ordinate deliveries
- Publicise and expand the scheme
- Deliver the post

We run successful jumble sales regularly making over £1,000. The next is on Saturday 22nd September and we need people to –

- Sort on Friday 21st from 19.00 – 21.00hrs.
- Sort on Saturday 22nd from 10.00 – 12.00hrs.
- Sell on Saturday from 14.00 – 16.00hrs.
- Clear up on Saturday from 15.30 – 17.0hrs.
- Deliver leaflets and put up posters

We are launching a 1,000 club this month. It has the potential to raise £60,000 pa (if we can get 1,000 people to join). We need people to buy “shares” at £10 per month. If you ask everyone you know we should easily be able to exceed the 1,000 target.

We want to run 4 BIG social events a year. We have the contacts, knowledge and experience and know we can make over £2,000 profit on each event! We need people to –

- Help organise each event
- Sell tickets
- Come and enjoy themselves

We want to run lots of SMALL events a year raising a few hundred pounds at each event. We need people to volunteer to run them.

We want to approach businesses and individuals for grants and donations; we want to look at ways to save costs on the building and perhaps get it started early but we need people with the right skills to volunteer.

We want to save money on our equipment and look after it better but, guess what!, we need people with the right skills to volunteer.

We have the largest scout group in the country, giving us a pool of around 700 adults and 350 youngsters! If everyone pulls together and adopts a “can do, will do!” attitude we could start building in 2009!

Possible additional revenue every year!

Fireworks Display and Funfair	20,000
1,000 Club	60,000
BIG events	10,000
SMALL events/jumbles etc	10,000
Grants and Donations	<u>100,000</u>
Total	<u>200,000 pa</u>

News from the Sections

Every section has had a great time and is looking forward to the next 12 months but we have some challenges ahead!

Beavers – Windfalls has now been running for a year without a leader. This cannot continue so, until we find two volunteers to work together and be trained as leaders, the colony will not meet. The present Beavers have been offered places in Monday or Tuesday colonies. Without this fourth colony our waiting list will, unfortunately, increase and “new” Beavers will have to wait longer before they can join. Training and uniform is provided by the Group free of charge. All it costs is time (a few hours a week) and the “pay” is the satisfaction and enjoyment you will get every week!

Cubs – All sections are operational but all would like more help, either Young Leaders or regular weekly adult help.

Scouts – The biggest problem is their success! We now have 16 patrols of 7 scouts (total 112!) who are attending regularly on Fridays. We have had to introduce a waiting list and currently have about 10 youngsters waiting to join. The priority for newcomers is –

1. Cubs coming up
2. Siblings over 11 years old
3. Time on the waiting list

We will only transfer from Cubs to Scouts and Scouts to Explorers at the beginning of each term (January, April and September).

Explorers – The success of the troop combined with the good reputation, excellent programme and fantastic leaders in the Unit(s) is providing yet another challenge! In addition to the Eagle Unit, we are running a Young Leaders Unit, 4..7.11 Gang Show Unit and are starting up an “older” Explorer Unit for the over 16 year olds that will offer even more challenges and opportunities to the members. In parallel we are promoting then Scout Network for 18-25 year olds and plan to have some joint challenges. This requires more leaders who are able and willing to work with this age group.

Our problems are the result of our success so we are not complaining but we do need to resolve them!

Articles for 7th Epsom News are welcome from anyone and should be sent to Neil Dallen at 77 Hazon Way, Epsom KT19 8HG or emailed to neil@interim-mgmt.demon.co.uk. The editor reserves the right to change, edit or exclude items.