



DC's Message

2007 CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

In previous editions and Leader meetings, I have referred to the forthcoming 2007 celebrations. Time is catching us up and we are now only a mere 18 months away from the very start of 2007 itself.

It is therefore very important that some serious consideration needs to be given to how our District will be taking part and celebrating 'our birthday'!

*I should therefore be grateful if a Leader from every Section of every Group, including the Explorers and Fellowship, attends a meeting on **Monday, 5th September at 7.30 pm, Little Britain HQ** to discuss and share ideas for this great occasion.*

It could be something as simple as placing a plaque on your HQ or village hall; or a floral display within your parish; a family, Group or District camp; a torchlight procession to Maumbury Rings followed by a campfire; a competition for a District celebratory badge. It could be lots of things I know, but this really needs a team effort from everyone.

There are almost 500 members in this District and we have lots of contacts and access to a vast range of resources and facilities. We are going to have one serious party that this District and our community will be talking about until the next centenary!

LEADER TRAINING

The new Leader Training has now been running for almost two years and I feel that it is a much more 'user friendly' process.

The County Commissioner has now stated that any Leader who has not 'crossed' the divide from the old training system into the new, will be required to resign their warrant from the end of December 2005.

Therefore, if your Training Adviser has not been in touch with you direct, please contact me as soon as possible. Extra modules have been arranged by the County Training Team and can be viewed at www.dorsetscouts.org.uk

It only remains for me to thank you all very much for such a wonderful turn-out at our St George's Day Parade.

Debbie Draper (Diddy DC)

The Waterman Award

At the District AGM John Waterman, son of the revered District Commissioner after whom the Award is named, presented two Awards this year for "exceptional service in the true meaning of Scouting during the past year", one to Brian and Ruth Young and one to Barry Thomas.

The District Commissioner said that Brian and Ruth, who had given more than 60 years joint service to Scouting, were as active as ever following their retirement from work last year. They are both members of the District and Brownsea Island Fellowships, Brian as Assistant District Commissioner (Fellowship) and Ruth as District Fellowship Secretary. Ruth is the Group Scout Leader at Charminster where she has the active support of Brian at Cub Pack meetings, camps and District events, with Group fund-raising such as Christmas Post, and in maintaining the Group's HQ. They willingly give time to support others in the District through the Fellowship, in Ruth's role as Assistant District Commissioner (Special Needs) and in Brian's as District Nights Away Adviser. And they find time to visit their grand-children !

Barry Thomas is a comparative new-comer to Scouting, which started on the side-lines of a football pitch. His interest in Scouting events led to an invitation to become a member of the District Exec.. Then, easing him in gently, it was suggested that he assist one of the Officers of the Committee. He agreed without hesitation or prompting, later becoming District Treasurer. Enthusiastically involved, he set up the District website and last year re-vamping it to make it more user-friendly. He also takes a great interest in helping the District Explorers establish themselves, forging links with other Districts and sharing his practical skills in pursuits such as tower abseiling, climbing, and camping and mountain-bike expeditions; he is starting a course in archery. And he copes with a full-time job !

New Mayor's Scout

In the presence of the current Mayor of Dorchester, Cllr Richard Biggs, the District Chairman, Mike Marsh officiated in the change over of Mayor's Scouts at the District AGM. Thanks were expressed to Daniel [REDACTED] (Central Dorchester) for his term of office and Joshua [REDACTED] (1st Dorchester) was welcomed into the prestigious role. The Scout Banner and sash were exchanged.

Group Accounts

It is in the Scout Association's Rules that Groups send their appropriately audited Statement of Account to the District Treasurer within six months of their AGM. If the Statement has not been available for approval at the AGM, it must be approved by the Group Executive Committee and the Statement endorsed accordingly.

The Champion Fellowship

In April Dorchester District Scout Fellowship was honoured to be nominated as a Community Champion because "it was felt that the group made a real difference to the local community voluntarily". This has come to the public's notice through the help Fellowship members give to Scout Christmas Post in Dorchester every year which raises funds for other local charities as well as for the Scout District, and through the other support they are known to give to Scouting behind the scenes. There is much more to the Fellowship than "beer and skittles" !

West Dorset District Council invited representatives to an Award Ceremony at Brownsword Hall, Poundbury and this was attended by Fellowship Chairman and Secretary, Morris Witchelo and Ruth Young and by District Secretary, John Scutt. There they met our nominator, Mollie Rennie. An interesting series of presentations to contestants from across West Dorset was made by Cllr Mary Penfold, Chairman of the Council. Not a winner, but the Fellowship received a Certificate. Congratulations.

District Dinner

A reminder that the District Dinner is being held on Saturday, 9th July and the Diddy DC has asked for your choice from the menu circulated with the previous Bulletin to be given to her by Sunday, 3rd July on [REDACTED].

District Barn Dance

It is some time ago since the District held a very successful series of annual Barn Dances and only some of you will remember them. The Executive Committee has decided that this is a good time to revive the event. It will take place at Dorchester Corn Exchange on Saturday, 29th October with music by "Jump at the Sun". Tickets will be £9.50 and include a delicious Ploughman's Supper. Numbers will be strictly limited to give ample space for dancing. Please let the District Secretary know if you are interested so your ticket can be reserved before the event is advertised to the public nearer the time. We're sure that this will be a fun-filled evening.

Funding Advice

Christine Stone, West Dorset District Council's Community Information and Development Officer, offers community groups free advice on finding suitable sources of funding to carry out work or to develop projects, with help through the application process. Her phone number is 01305 252238.

District Diary

JUNE

14 Young Leader Training, Modules G & H.
28 Adult Training Module 1 – Weymouth

JULY

2 District Bingo, Magistrates Room, Corn Exchange, Dorchester, 2.45 pm.
5 Young Leader Training, Modules I & J
8 County AGM, Poole Grammar School (*by invitation*)
9 Dorchester District Dinner
12 Adult Training Module 3, Dorchester
13 District Executive Committee Meeting
19 Appointment Sub-Committee Meeting (*reserve*)
23 *School Summer Holidays begin*
29 - 10 Eurojam, Hylands Park, Chelmsford

AUGUST

6 District Bingo, Magistrates Room, Corn Exchange, Dorchester, 2.45 pm.

Details from the District Team

District Help with Group Camps

With the season Summer Camps fast approaching here are three ways in which the District can help Groups with their arrangements:

- ❖ The Executive Committee will consider making a grant in cases where a youngster is unable to go to camp because of the family's financial difficulties. Contact District Commissioner on [REDACTED].
- ❖ The District has available a light-weight mess tent, patrol tent and loo tents with loos for Groups to use without charge. Contact John Gage on [REDACTED].
- ❖ The District has a digital mapping system whereby seamless copies of OS Maps can be provided for Scouting purposes for any specified part of the south of England. Contact Barry Thomas on [REDACTED].

Group Administrators' Meeting

At the meeting held in April the subject that gave rise to most discussion was the pending requirement by HQ that its Membership Data Base shall include everyone for whom the Association's Membership subscription is paid, youngsters as well as adults. It is intended, in due course, to be able to dispense with the annual census and rely entirely on an up-to-date Membership Register. In preparation for this, the Group members present asked the District to consider ways of helping Leaders to put this information on the internet, with the security safeguards in place. The District Commissioner would welcome the views of Leaders. There will be another Group Administrators' meeting in October.

New Directory

The District Directory for 2005/6 will be issued with the August District Bulletin. To help with its preparation will you please let the District Secretary know of any changes to postal and e-mail addresses. Any new e-mail addresses received will be added to the Directory

The next Bulletin will be published on the 27th July