



Arundel & Littlehampton District Newsletter

One year on ◻ ◻ ◻

What a year it has been. As I write this it has been a year and a day since I took on the role of District Commissioner for Arundel and Littlehampton. What a busy year it has been. I have had the opportunity to visit most Groups throughout the year, whether that be for AGM's, section nights or to present awards. What has been evident at every Group is the enjoyment the young people are getting from the programmes and the opportunities they are being offered. This is testament to the time and effort put in by our dedicated volunteer Leaders.

I have also been fortunate enough to attend some Group Trustee meetings where I have been able to get to know some of the other key volunteers around the District. Without these often less mentioned volunteers our Leaders would not be able to provide the Scouting opportunities for our young people. For me it has been an interesting and valuable experience attending these meetings in order to understand the background of our Groups.

There have been some challenges along the way during the last year with some difficult situations to navigate around. No matter what the circumstances are the focus will always be on the young people and our volunteers and ensuring we are doing the right thing for them. Thankfully, the challenges have been minimal and the support from the Groups and District Team has been amazing. I am hopeful that when we see the census results next year, we will see another year of growth. Next year will also see us looking at how the 'Transformation' will fit in within the District and adapting our teams to fit the new model of working.

We have also been busy in the background pushing forward with the Campsite regeneration plans. We have approved plans for new toilets to be constructed and work on this project will hopefully commence early in the New Year. Keep an eye on the Furze Field Campsite Facebook page for updates and information. We also have a fully functioning District website (alcouts.org.uk) where the campsite calendar can now be viewed and booking forms located.

All that is left for me to say is a really huge thank you for all you have done during the last year to support Scouting in your Groups and in the District. I wish you all the best for the festive season and the New Year and I look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

All the best,
Ian

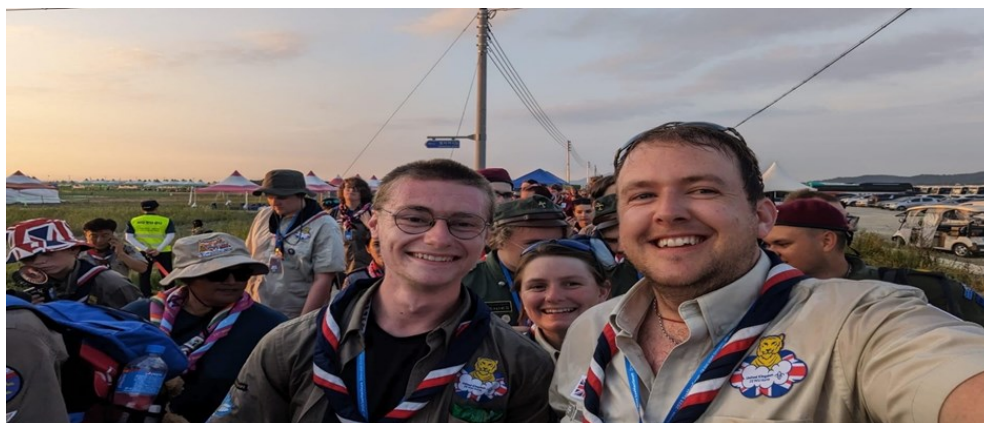


WORLD JAMBOREE 2023

South Korea

What an experience our 4 Contingent members had - it really was an experience of a lifetime.

Grant, Annie, Rhianna and Archie faced every challenge they met while in South Korea—wet weather, bugs, a threatened typhoon, flooded camp site, heat wave, etc etc. They, together with their Unit Leaders—especially Gary Cooke from Rustington Pioneers and Jon Harris, a Rustington Explorer Leader who was a member of the Site Crew Team—in true scouting style overcame all problems and they all arrived back in the UK safe and well with lots of stories.



Grant and the other members of Unit 73 arriving at Jamboree camp and greeted by Jon in his capacity as a Service Crew Team member



The closing ceremony in South Korea – handing the flag over to the Polish Scouts – for the 2027 World Jamboree

Down on the Farm



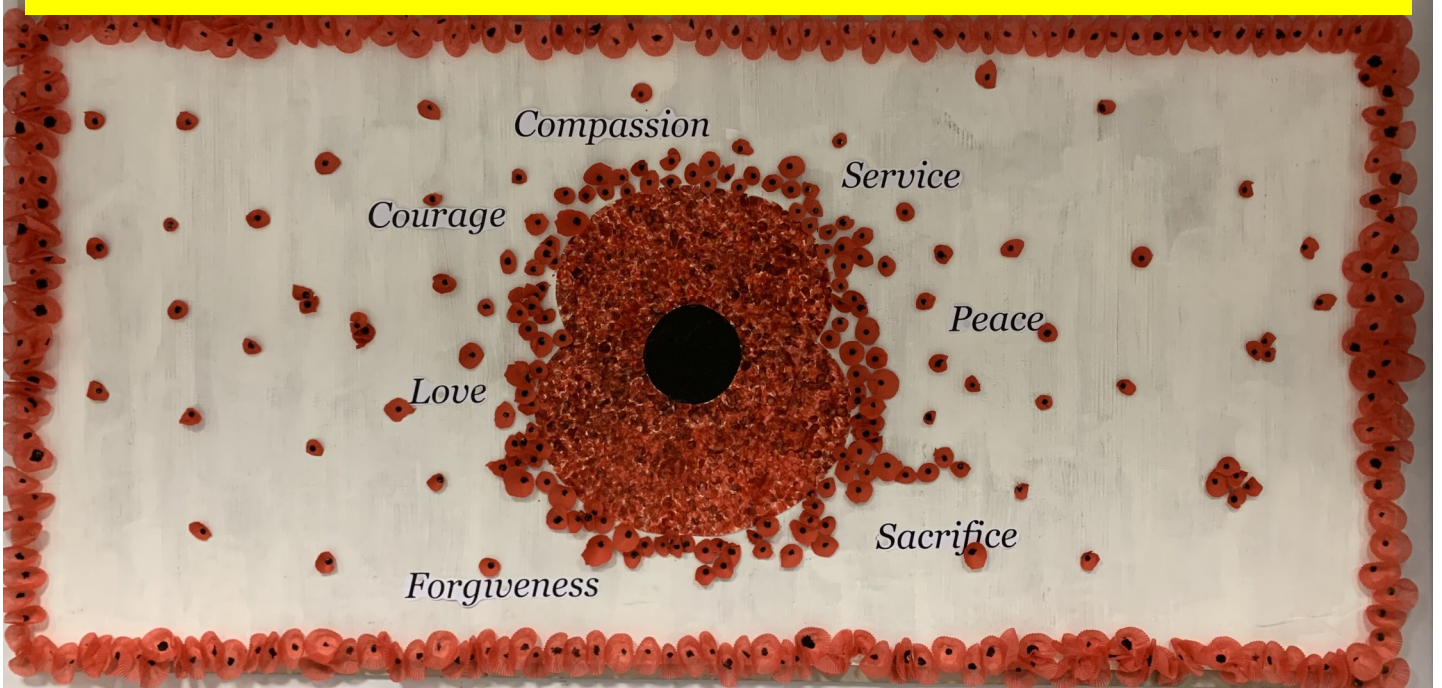
1st Barnham Beavers recently had a great morning at Crimsham Farm, a community farming project. There were lots of hands on learning opportunities including meeting the animals and an interactive birds of prey talk. They also enjoyed some fire lighting practise, finished of course with toasting marshmallows!!





Remembrance

Every section and their leaders at 5th Littlehampton completed this remembrance craft.



Scouts at 1st Arundel were very ambitious this year and made a model of the Soldier for Remembrance Day, which was placed outside the Scout Hall. They were rightly proud of their efforts.



DISTRICT COMMISSIONER'S COMMENDATION

Vicky Pentecost was a very proud mum when her son, **Harry**, was presented with a Commissioner's Award by Ian Buckman, District Commissioner, at 7th Littlehampton AGM in July 2023.

Harry, aged 7 years is a beaver at 7th Littlehampton, is a 'carer' for his mum. She suffers from seizures which can last from 6-10 minutes or more. Harry has been taught to recognise these episodes and sits next to his mum – after phoning grandma – until mother recovers.

Harry has lived with this anxiety every day and shows bravery and compassion living with the prospect of ever knowing when his mother will become ill. Harry has adapted to his mother's conditions and remains a happy child, attends school and enjoys Beaver Scouts and the activities and events they provide.



PLATINUM CHIEF SCOUT AWARDS

4 Peregrine Explorers have achieved their Platinum Chief Scout Awards and Ian Buckman, District Commissioner recently presented them with their District Certificates on their wonderful achievement.



6 Yapton Scouts have achieved their Chief Scout Gold Awards recently and Ian Buckman, District Commissioner, presented them with their District Certificates recently when he found them at Peregrine Explorer Unit.



Awards and Recognition

Bear Grylls says :

“It’s so important that we thank and recognise our fellow Scouts for their incredible service. These are the shining lights who make Scouts possible.

Most of us in Scouts look for, and expect, no reward. But a timely word of thanks is always appreciated and can work wonders.

That’s why I’d like you to think about putting people forward for our award scheme. Our Service Awards are an opportunity to make that occasional “thank you” even more special. They’re for those special volunteers who, over time, you find yourself thanking more frequently.”

As a District we would love to see more of our fantastic volunteers receiving awards but we do need others to nominate them! We know you are busy but it would be great to see people receiving the rewards they deserve. The Scout website has some example citations to make the job of nominating easier for you—the following link will take you straight to the relevant page.

[Citation Masterclass | Scouts](#)

Did you know?

- ◆ When we transition to the new system every adult who has contact with the young people will be expected to complete First Aid training.
- ◆ You can find out all about the District campsite, including fees, on the District website. You can also see when it is available by looking at the calendar and book the session(s) you want.
[Furzefield Scout Campsite – Arundel and Littlehampton District Scouts \(alscouts.org.uk\)](#)
- ◆ If you have completed any training modules these must be validated by the end of January or they will not be migrated to the new membership system and will be lost!
- ◆ You need to make sure that all your personal information, including address, email and phone numbers are correct on Compass before this is migrated to the new system.
- ◆ We have a great new website thanks to Katie Frost. Do have a look at it: [alscouts.org.uk](#)

Calling all Network members



Are you 18-25? This makes you a Network member! Please can you contact Ian Buckman, District Commissioner, regarding Network or Amber Ollerenshaw, District Youth Commissioner, to find out about 2024 events for all Network members

Ferring Squirrels celebrated their 1st Birthday in true party style with fun, games, face painting and a lovely party food with lots of cake in September 2023. They now have 4 leaders and 20 Squirrels.

They held their Christmas party recently after delivering Christmas cards in Ferring. After the party Lisa awarded Squirrels with their Acorn badge alongside other badges.



On the Beach!

Several Beaver Colonies attended the annual **Beaver Sandcastle competition** on Saturday 30th September, a lovely warm morning on the Littlehampton beach. Beavers from Rustington Forest, 4th Littlehampton, Barnham, Yapton, Arundel and a single Beaver from Angmering. Arundel attended and the castles were magnificent and all different styles.



Our thanks to the 3 judges – Councillor Freddy Tandy, Littlehampton Mayor, Richard Marshall and Graham Lincoln, who awarded Arundel with 1st prize; Yapton were 2nd and 4th Team B gained 3rd place, with the Angmering Beaver who joined their team.



Thanks is also given to Debbie Deacon for organising the event and to the water marshals who kept the Beavers safe.



The **Cubs Beach Challenge** was held on Sunday 9th October on Littlehampton beach in glorious sunshine. Cub packs from across the District took part in 5 different beach activities resulting with Barnham Team 3 gaining first prize and their Team 1 winning 2nd prize. 3rd prize was won by Pathfinder Cubs from Rustington. Our thanks to Councillor Freddie Tandy, Littlehampton Mayor, who kindly joined the judging panel again.



All Scout Troops were invited to join in the **Cooking Competition** which was held on Sunday 9th November at Arundel Scout Hall. 4 teams took place – 2 x Arundel Scouts and 2 x Rustington Pioneers. All the teams worked well together producing very imaginative and delicious dishes for the panel of judges to taste - a very difficult job in choosing an outright winner as every course produced a fantastic array of taste.

One of the Rustington Pioneers teams won the coveted Battered Billy Trophy and every participant was awarded a small gift for their fantastic efforts.



Cubs from the Littlehampton Groups met on Friday 1st December at the Flying Fortress for a Christmas get together – what a fantastic time they had.



District Diary 2024

DAY	DATE	EVENT
Friday	9 February	District Beavers at Flying Fortress 6.00-8.00pm
Thursday	29 January	District Trustee Board meeting
Wednesday	22 February	District Finance meeting
Saturday	6 April	Cubs Easter Challenge at District Campsite
Wednesday	17 April	St George's Day rehearsal at Arundel Cathedral 6.15pm
Sunday	21 April	District St George's Day Parade and service at Arundel Cathedral
Saturday	18 May	Cubs Bridger Challenge
Friday-Sunday	17-19 May	Cubs camping at District Campsite
Thursday	19 September	District AGM at Arundel Castle



LOCAL TRAINING DATES

First Aid (Module 10)-



Sun 10 March 0845-1600	1st Arundel HQ BN18 9JA
Sat 18 March 0845—1600	2nd Worthing HQ BN11 5JN
Sat 16 March 0845-1600	11th Bognor HQ PO21 5HL
Sun 24 March 0845—1600	12th Chichester HQ PO19 3AB
Sat 27 April 0845—1600	1st Billingshurst HQ RH14 9SX
Thurs 9 and 16 May 1800—2100	2nd Worthing HQ BN11 5JN
Sat 14 September 0845—1600	5th Littlehampton HQ BN17 7EH
Sun 29 September 0845—1600	11th Bognor HQ PO21 5HL
Sat 12 October 0845—1600	2nd Worthing HQ BN11 5JN
Sat 12 October 0845—1600	12th Chichester HQ PO19 3AB
Sun 20 October 0845-1600	1st Billingshurst HQ RH14 9SX

Level 3 Outdoor First Aid

Book your place by registering on Eventbrite:

[West Sussex Scouts Events | Eventbrite](#)

All courses are free but failure to turn up without notice will incur a charge to your Group.

MANAGEMENT TRAINING

The following management training modules are being offered by South East England Region:

All will be held at the Holiday Inn, Eastleigh

- **Achieving Growth: Saturday 16 March 2024**
10.00 am to 5.00 pm
- **Meeting the Challenges: Sunday 17 March 2024** 10.00 am to 5.00 pm.

You can register via Eventbrite:

[The Scouts, South East England Region Events | Eventbrite](#)

There are a limited number of places so it is wise to book early.



District Diary

Please let us know if you have an event that should be added to the District Diary. Contact me on

sally.holmes@alscouts.org.uk

Deadline for next newsletter is
25 March 2024

What about sharing your camp stories and pictures?