



Royal Forest of Dean District Scouts



# Oakleaf

**CUBS**

1915 – 2015

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## September 2016

### Diary

#### September

- 11 The Maze Runner, see details below
- 11 County AGM @ Gloucester Cathedral 5:30pm for a 6:00pm start
- 13 District evening @ Rheola House, Belle Vue Centre 7.00 pm – 9.30 pm
- 14 **District AGM (See notice below for details)**
- 18 Module A (Mandatory for new YLs) (Garden Room, Dean Field Studies Centre, Parkend - next to Beaver Lodge) ([Young Leaders](#))
- 18 Safeguarding session @ The Garden Room. Parkend 9.00 - 11.00  
Getting started 12.00 – 17.00 in Beaver Lodge
- 20 Signing training, Makaton training session Rheola House Cinderford 7.00 pm-9.30 pm  
Details from Carol Rushton [carolrushton1@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:carolrushton1@hotmail.co.uk)
- 23/25 The Forest of Dean District Cub Centenary Camp
- 23 Open evening at Wollaston Village Hall, hopefully to start the group up again. If you are free get in touch with Martin Williams and come along to lend a hand.
- 23/24 Beaver District Camp

#### October

- 7 / 8 Discovery Days for Uniformed Groups at Bristol Zoo Gardens
- 16 Module B (Taking the Lead) & Module I (What Did They Say?) & JOTI/JOTA  
Severnbanks County Primary

#### November

- 20 Module C (That's the way to do it!) & Module G/J (Prog plans/Awards & badges)  
Mitcheldean
- 26 Beaver visit to "Jack & The Beanstalk" panto at the Everyman Theatre

#### December

- Tbc Seasonal "Getting to Know You"?

#### 2017

#### January

- 22 A (Safeguarding & Intro to Young Leaders Scheme and Prepare for TakeOff!)

#### February

- 19 H (Programme Plus) & E (Games)

#### March

- 19 Mission Clinic / Unit Forum

#### April

- 9 A (Safeguarding & Intro to Young Leaders Scheme and Prepare for TakeOff!)

## **MARTIN WILLIAMS**

We thank Martin for his leadership over the last 6 years as our District Commissioner and during this time as District Commissioner he has had many rewarding moments, especially when presenting awards or attending events for the young people, there are times when difficult decisions have to be made to ensure that the District runs smoothly.

The leaders are pleased that he is continuing to work within the District by taking on the role of District Training Manger, this is an important position as we need to ensure all of those adults who are working with the young people have the best training to enable those young people to enjoy all that scouting can offer them.

## **DISTRICT NOTICES**

### **DISTRICT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**This will be held on the 14<sup>th</sup> September at the Sling Social Club**

**Oakwood Road Sling Coleford GL16 8JH**

**7.00pm for 7.15pm start**

**Please support the District and meet Gary your new District Commissioner.**

The District now has a new DC, Gary Law; a lot of you will know him from his time at 1<sup>st</sup> Ruardean and as a trainer in County. Gary will make an excellent DC and brings a lot of experience to the role. Can I take this opportunity to thank everyone in the District and County for their help and understanding over the last 6 or so years. I am sure you will show the same to Gary and I wish him congratulations on his appointment and all the best for the future.

Martin Williams

## **A MESSAGE FROM GARY**

### **Welcome**

In my first Update for Oakleaf as District Commissioner, I would like to thank everyone for the warm welcome offered. I am really looking forward to leading the Forest of Dean District Scouts. When a new DC starts, it is normal for them to undertake a review of the District. I have already started this process and will use it to really get to know the District and its members. As part of this process, I will be visiting all the sections of each group and Explorer and Network Units over September and October. Your GSL will be notified when I will be visiting.

### **District Review**

As part of the District Review, I have looked at the District Structure and aim to set up 4 teams; Youth Programme, Adult Support, Media, and Development. Within this structure will be a number of roles (some new, some already set up) and I am pleased to announce the following appointments:

- Chris Brewster – Deputy District Commissioner
- Tom Rushton – Assistant District Commissioner (Scouts)
- Marnie Fewfrell– Assistant District Commissioner (Beaver Scouts)
- Rosie Marks – District Secretary and Administrator
- Martin Williams – Local Training Manager
- Carol Rushton - Assistant District Commissioner (Activities)

If you are interested in joining the District Team, please contact me and we can talk about which role would suit you best.

### **Deputy District Commissioner**

Chris Brewster has been a Scout Leader for quite a few years. He has until recently been Acting DC and Deputy DC for another District. Chris also works for the UK Programme Support Team where he runs training courses and helps at various programme development events around the country. Chris has experience of being a DC, a Deputy CC and a number of other local Scouting roles. In his working life Chris has worked as a development officer for national youth organisations. Prior to that Chris was the Development Manager for voluntary youth services in Worcestershire. Chris now works as a part time Teacher.

'I am delighted to have been asked to join Gary as Deputy DC for the Forest of Dean. Gary and I have worked together on various projects for a number of years. We make a good team and together we will support all of the Leaders and the Groups in the District. Our natural starting point will be to get out and about to visit as many Colonies, Packs, Troops and Explorer Units as possible. From there we can understand where the priorities lie for everyone and we can set about working to provide the support necessary to help the Forest of Dean District flourish.'

### **District Neckerchief**

I also wish to have a new District Neckerchief. There are 9 designs. You can vote on your favourite by visiting <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/GW89X27>. I will announce the winner in the next copy of Oakleaf.

### **Facebook and Twitter**

The District now has Facebook and Twitter pages. Please sign up to one, or both, and get regular updates about district events. Important information will still be emailed to GSLs and published in Oakleaf. [www.facebook.com/forestofdeanscouts](http://www.facebook.com/forestofdeanscouts) @fodscouts

### **Recruitment Opportunity**

Tom Rushton, our ADC Scouts, has arranged a recruitment stall at Dean Academy's Open Evening on 15<sup>th</sup> September. He is focusing on recruiting adults for any group in the Forest. If you have a vacancy which needs filling, please let me know and I will pass this information on.

### **Notifications**

This is just a reminder that all Nights Away Notifications should be sent, preferably via email, to me so I can authorise the event. I should also be notified if a section is meeting outside their usual meeting place or if they are doing an adventurous activity which requires an activity permit. These procedures are in place to support the leaders involved (especially if something goes wrong!). Please could you ensure all leaders adhere to this.

### **Safeguarding update - URGENT**

The Scout Association is changing the DBS system. From September, if a DBS runs out then that adult will be removed from the Movement and will not be allowed to volunteer within Scouting. I advise that any DBS which is due for renewal is acted upon quickly. If it does expire then that adult will have to re-apply to be a leader/helper/supporter and they will have to go through the whole appointments process again which will waste their time, yours and other leaders. It will be easier to renew the DBS. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

### **And finally...**

A quick reminder about a few events coming up this September include the District's Cub Camp, District Beaver Sleepover and our new group in Woolaston will be holding an Open Evening on the 23<sup>th</sup> September to recruit new leaders. And, of course I hope you will all be able to attend the District's AGM on 14<sup>th</sup> September.

Don't forget you can contact me directly at [dc.forestofdean@gmail.com](mailto:dc.forestofdean@gmail.com) or 01594 541 258.

I am really looking forward to working with you all, and please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns, questions, queries or successes,

Gary Law

## **TRAINING**

Training dates for getting started, modules 1 and 3, and Safeguarding in this District are shown on the diary on the front page of this issue of Oakleaf, if you need to do the training or update your safeguarding please contact either myself or Stephanie Ovens to book onto the courses.

[martin-williams@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:martin-williams@hotmail.co.uk)  
[stephanie.ovens@scouts.org.uk](mailto:stephanie.ovens@scouts.org.uk)

The dates for other courses being put on around the County can be found on the County Website, <http://gloucestershire-scouts.org.uk/members-resources/training> or on the sheet attached to this issue.

Remember someone is always at Rheola House on 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday in each month to help with training and validation or if you just want to pop in for a coffee and a chat. The first of next term is on 13<sup>th</sup> September  
Martin

## **AWARDS**

In the last couple of months several more leaders have reached milestones in their scouting careers I have had the pleasure of presenting some with long service awards. They include;

Caroline Etheridge	Mayhill & Huntley	30 years long service award
Andrew Keighley	Clearwell & Sling	15 years long service award
Rob Potter	Mayhill & Huntley	5 years long service award
Simon Holmes	Mayhill & Huntley	5 years long service award
Kevin Payne	Royal Forest	5 years long service award
Lisa Barnard	Royal Forest	5 years long service award

Caroline and Rob had theirs presented at Cubjam, nearly by the chief himself.

It was also my pleasure to present Heather Hill (1<sup>st</sup> Newent) with her wood beads.

Martin Williams

## **IMPORTANT NOTICE**

### **APPOINTMENTS AND COMPASS RECORDS**

It has come to our attention recently that there are leaders / adults in this District whose record on Compass is either incorrect or has not been updated. Can I ask everyone again to log on and check their own records, if you are unable to do this ask your GSL or group administrator to do it for you.

Adults are being added to Compass without either the Appointment Secretary or the Training team knowing about them, which leads to confusion and difficulties for those who manage the District.

Please remember all leaders and adults who regularly help at group or section level and all group executive members **must have a current Disclosure**, fail to do this and HQ will cancel the appointment.

Please check your record and make sure you are up to date with your appointment, training, disclosure, first aid and permits: all permits and ongoing learning need to be renewed either every 3 or 5 years dependant on what type they are.

### **THE MAZE RUNNER**

Please see the attached flyer for the Maze Runner on the 11<sup>th</sup> September, age 8+ can take part in this interesting event. We can agree a Club entry discount fee.

It involves a Run, some challenges and a route through the Mazes.

Brian Griffin

Lions and Elton Giant Mazes

## **WOOLASTON SCOUT GROUP**

The local community and the village hall committee have asked that we look at re opening the Scout Group in the village; they believe that there are enough young people in the area to make it viable. We have already done a leaflet drop in the area and had a stall at the Woolaston carnival, which generated a lot of interest from both youth and adults.

We have planned an open evening on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September in the hall to start with. If you are free and can help out on that evening please get in touch with Martin Williams

## **SIGNING (MAKATON) TRAINING**

There will be a Total Communication training evening at Rheola House on Tuesday 20th September for anyone who is interested in learning some Makaton and other communication techniques particularly useful if you have or may have a young person with communication difficulties join your group. The course also gives you a certificate of attendance for your ongoing learning.

I know some people have already expressed interest but if you can remind me who you are that would be great.

Carol Rushton

## **DISTRICT CUB CENTENARY CAMP**

The Forest of Dean District Cub Centenary Camp will be held at Greenacres Campsite, Scowles Road, Coleford GL16 8QS from Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September to Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September. Our theme this year is 100 years of Cub Scouts

As in previous years the arrival and departure times will be staggered between 5.30 to 6.30pm on Friday and 1.30 to 2.30pm on Sunday. Individual times will be allocated when we know how many Groups are attending. Cubs will be dropped at the Recreation ground and will walk up to the Campsite, their bags will be taken separately to speed up the flow of parents dropping off and collecting. (Tents can be erected on Thursday evening or during Friday if you have people available).

The cost is £25 per Cub which covers camp fees, equipment and the Saturday evening meal – which will be cooked centrally and eaten together. Groups will need to add the cost of providing supper on Friday plus breakfast and lunch on both Saturday and Sunday.

We would like each group attending to provide an activity for Saturday so that the Cubs can move around activities throughout the day. There are some centrally organised events on Saturday such as climbing and zorbing, so a few calmer activities might be good. We would like an area of games which may have been played by cubs 100 years ago so any ideas for this would be appreciated. Sunday morning activities will be organised for you so that groups can break camp.

Please send me ([carolrushton1@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:carolrushton1@hotmail.co.uk)) your total numbers by 16<sup>th</sup> September plus details of the activity you are providing for Saturday. Also any dietary requirements that need to be considered for Saturday evening Centenary meal.

Please pass on to anyone in your group who needs to know.

Thank you

Carol

**(A copy of the health form is attached to Oakleaf)**

## **YOUNG LEADERS MISSIONS - 2016**

The Young Leaders' Scheme is an ongoing programme of training for young people from 14 to 18 years old to work effectively with younger scouts.

Young Leader Training Modules are run by the YL Unit, this is complemented by four Young Leaders' Missions that are completed when Young Leaders help in their sections.

The Missions need a little bit of support from the Section Leaders to allow Young leaders to put the learning from the training modules into practice.

These missions are:

Mission 1 – Run a minimum of 3 different types of game: either indoor, outdoor or as part of a camp; typically done aged 14-15.

Mission 2 – Plan and run an activity that is not a game, as part of either the section programme or a camp; typically done aged 15-16.

Mission 3 – Take the section’s programme ideas to a programme planning meeting; typically done aged 16-17.

Mission 4 – Take responsibility for organising and running part of the section programme; typically done aged 17-18

How can you help as a Section Leader?

Each Section Leader should help their Young Leaders to be part of the section leadership team and give them real responsibility as their experience grows.

To help them complete their missions, a Young Leader needs help from Section Leaders, and other adults in the leadership team, in various ways:

- Involvement in planning the section programme during the year (please invite them to your planning meetings);
- Opportunity to input their own ideas (don’t forget to ask YLs for ideas or feedback, they might not be used to working with adults and speaking up);
- Support in delivering the games and activities that they have to plan and run (they will probably forget things, you might prompt them)
- Increasing responsibility, as they gain experience (look for opportunities to develop them);
- Encouragement after setbacks and positive feedback after success.

Please ask if you have any questions about the Young Leader scheme and if you have any DofE helpers who need an authorised signature for helping with a section.

Mark Westwood

Explorer Scout Leader (Young Leaders)

**THE YOUNG LEADERS PROGRAMME FOR 2016 IS:**

Young Leaders Programme		
2016	Modules or Theme	Venue
Sep 17 <sup>th</sup>	YL Unit Camp and Camp Fire Forum (evening start)	Beaver Lodge (tbc)
Sep 18 <sup>th</sup>	A (Safeguarding & Intro to Young Leaders Scheme and Prepare for TakeOff!)	Garden Room, Dean Field Studies Centre
Sep dtbc	Backwoods Challenge	tbc
Oct 16 <sup>th</sup>	B (Taking the Lead) & I (What Did They Say?) & JOTI/JOTA	Severbanks County Primary School
Nov 20 <sup>th</sup>	C (That's the way to do it!) & G/J (Programme plans/Awards & badges)	Mitcheldean
Dec dtbc	Seasonal “Getting to Know You”?	
2017		
Jan 22 <sup>nd</sup>	A (Safeguarding & Intro to Young Leaders Scheme and Prepare for TakeOff!)	Garden Room, Dean Field Studies Centre
Feb 19 <sup>th</sup>	H (Programme Plus) & E (Games)	Mitcheldean
Mar 19 <sup>th</sup>	Mission Clinic / Unit Forum	Mitcheldean
Apr 9 <sup>th</sup>	A (Safeguarding & Intro to Young Leaders Scheme and Prepare for TakeOff!)	Garden Room, Dean Field Studies Centre
Apr (tbc)	K (Emergency Aid)	Garden Room, Dean Field Studies Centre

Sep 17 <sup>th</sup>	A (Safeguarding & Intro to Young Leaders Scheme and Prepare for TakeOff!)	Garden Room, Dean Field Studies Centre (tbc)
Sep dtbc	Backwoods Challenge	tbc
Oct 15 <sup>th</sup>	D (Understanding Behaviour) & F (Making Scouting Accessible) & JOTI/JOTA	Severnbanks County Primary School
Nov 19 <sup>th</sup>	B (Taking the Lead) & I (What Did They Say?)	Mitcheldean

Young Leaders meet from September to April (but not Dec)

Usually on 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each Month (but beware some changes, e.g. avoid Easter, 4<sup>th</sup> Friday in Jan, etc)

Mandatory Module A is in Jan, Apr, Sept for:

- all YLs,
- anyone doing DofE with a section,
- any 14-18yo children helping with a section

For updates see [www.facebook.com/groups/ForestYL/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/ForestYL/)

Mark Westwood, Explorer Scout Leader (Young Leaders) [mrt.westwood@gmail.com](mailto:mrt.westwood@gmail.com)

Young Leaders meet from September to April (not Dec) on 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each Month

Mandatory Module A is in Jan, Apr, Sept

For updates see

[www.facebook.com/groups/ForestYL/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/ForestYL/) Mark Westwood ESL(YL) [mrt.westwood@gmail.com](mailto:mrt.westwood@gmail.com)

## **SAILING PERMIT ASSESSMENT**

If you would like to complete your Sailing Permit to enable you to take Young People on the water, please take up this opportunity:

The upcoming assessment which in addition to the RYA Certification and will take place in the Bristol Docks from 10.30 to 2.30 pm on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October.

The assessor will be: -

Tony Clutten  
ADC Activities Wansdyke  
Avon Dinghy Sailing Assessor  
07525224521

He will need to check against the assessors form as attached (more details of the scheme are attached)

He will also need: –

- The Permit application form completed so that he can process the permit application.
- A Logbook

Anyone interested, please contact Tony directly.

Happy sailing!

## **DISCOVERY DAYS AT THE BRISTOL ZOO GARDENS**

The next event takes place on Saturday and Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> October. If you think the Pack Leaders in your region would be interested in joining us for the event, I would be very grateful if you could share this information with them.

Please see the website extract included here for further information about the day and how to book places.

### **Discovery Days for Uniformed Groups at Bristol Zoo Gardens**

Are you part of a cub, brownie, beavers or rainbows pack? Come along to the Zoo, have an amazing day out and help your pack work towards one of their badges.

#### **Discovery Days and Gaining badges**

Our next Discovery Days take place on 7th and 8th October 2016.

What's included?

- Admission to Bristol Zoo for the whole day
- Education Session - a 45minute session run by our award-winning education team, with live animals and lots of interactive fun
- Zoo trail - A specially designed self-guided trail with lots to discover and answers to find, directly linked to the session topics

Our two sessions have been designed to allow your group to work towards one of their activity badges whilst having an amazing day at the Zoo.

Choose from either:

**Session One – for Cubs and Brownies**

Endangered Wildlife – Animal Carer or Friends to Animals badge.

**Session Two – for Beavers and Rainbows**

Looking After Animals – Animal Friend or Roundabout badge.

**Book today**

Discovery days cost just £8.20 per child, which includes admission to the Zoo, the education session and a trail pack.

One adult is admitted free for every 7 paying children. Extra adults cost £10.75 each.

Discovery Days are always extremely popular, so to secure your booking please call **0117 9747369** or email: [education@bristolzoo.org.uk](mailto:education@bristolzoo.org.uk).

Many thanks

Nicky Weekes and Louise King

Education Bookings Team

Education Department

Bristol Zoo Gardens

Clifton, Bristol, BS8 3HA

T: 0117 9747369

Fax: 0117 9736814

## **COUNTY TRAINING DIARIES**

The latest list of County Training Courses are attached, FOD based courses are highlighted

## **COUNTY EVENTS**

For information and forms details of County Events etc. Please use the County Web Site:

**[Gloucestershire-scouts.org.uk](http://Gloucestershire-scouts.org.uk)**

We have been offered some kayaks at a cost of £40 each, and a number of 5/6/ man bell tents( price to be confirmed) by Forest Adventure. If anyone is interested in either of these items, please let me know and I can put you in touch.

Carol

## **OAKLEAF DISTRIBUTION**

It would appear that distribution of Oakleaf has not been affected by the changes made by Microsoft.

**Please ensure you use [brian.wingfield@btinternet.com](mailto:brian.wingfield@btinternet.com) to communicate for articles for Oakleaf.**

It is important that those organising events or articles supply the information by the deadline date, the last date for information will be the **22nd of each month** and Oakleaf will be sent out within the following 7 days.

**Oakleaf Editor:**

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**Deadline for next edition is: 22<sup>nd</sup> September**