

Southport Scout News – No. 255. 1st May 2015

Readers also are referred to:-

www.southportdistrictscouts.org.uk

www.merseysidescouts.org.uk



Compass Update

14 April 2015 – Compass Update

Firstly we want to say again that we know the transition to Compass and especially the past three months have been extremely difficult to carry out many Scouting tasks without a functioning database. Your feedback and support during this period is greatly appreciated.

We are now in a position to be able to give some clearer information on the plan for Compass going forward.

We have said throughout this offline period that we are not going to restore Compass until we are confident the system is secure. As you know we conducted thorough testing on the system during this offline period which identified the security challenges, but also other matters that need to be addressed before we go live again. All this has meant that it has taken longer to restore Compass than any of us would have liked.

Many of you have additionally fed back that we should not go live again until we are confident the system works and also that we should stagger releasing functionality bit by bit, rather than releasing it all in one go.

Taking into account the range of views expressed, going forward we will restore Compass in several stages, testing at each stage as we go. This will provide 'MMS' (the previous membership system before Compass) equivalent functionality from **early autumn**.

This date is a best estimate of what can be achieved as we write this note in April. As dates firm up we will be tighter and more specific on timeframes. We will communicate this as soon as we are able...

Southport Scouts '100 Club'

Hi Everyone

We have 35 members this month so the prize money for April will be £35.

The draw took place on the 23rd by a Beaver from the 58th.

Congratulations this month go to member number 23B Anderson a member of the ASU. He won £35. Good luck to everyone for next month.

Good Luck to all

John, Dorothy, Kath & Norah

The Mini Bus Support Team

Southport District Scout Council is a registered charity in England and Wales.....Registration number 521672

The '100 Club' is registered with Sefton MBC as a Small Society Lottery.....Registration number 018800

What are the interim arrangements while Compass is offline?

Currently you are able to upload records for new adults to be added to Compass to request a disclosure check. We are also automatically requesting disclosures for those adults who are on Compass and their disclosure is about to expire.

From last week we have been issuing Wood Badges for those whose records on Compass show they have completed their Wood Badge training.

You can see the full list of interim processes we have put in place at scouts.org.uk/compass.

It is worth being aware that as part of our work to get a system back online as quickly as possible, we are looking at the possibility of turning Compass back on for a limited number of users so that there is at least one person in each Scout District and County/Region/Area who can access and update the system. However, this does require a full assessment of this potential solution taking external advice and a full assessment of the security risks. Once we have completed this assessment we will communicate with you letting you know the outcome. This will be investigated in parallel with the work to restore Compass as mentioned above.

New Badge Scheme

With the soon to be implemented new programme and changes to the badges it may be an idea to publicise any excess badges you may be holding in stock.

Many of the Activity badges remain in the same format, but the Challenge badges are greatly different, as is the CS Award. Ashley or I will be taking our cub badges to the next Leaders' gathering, maybe an idea for GSLs and scouts and beavers.

Just seems common sense to save wastage.

Viv

Badge Stock at Waterside Lodge

The District badge stock at Waterside Lodge is maintained so that there is the shortest possible time between a request for badges and their availability. This is done mainly to ensure that our young (and not so young) members are not disappointed by being kept waiting after qualifying. This means that at times of substantial change in the badge scheme there is considerable risk of financial loss to the District. To reduce potential loss to the District, leaders may wish to help members achieve badges before they go out of stock. The potentially redundant badges currently in stock are:

Beavers

5 x Air Activity
20 x Health & Fitness
6 x Healthy Eating
12 x Imagination

Challenges

20 x Fitness
12 x Friendship
6 x Global

Old Discontinued @ 30p each ***(price reduced for fast sale)***

8 x Beaver Discovery Challenge
22 x Caring Challenge
8 x Olympic
35 x Queens Diamond Jubilee

Cubs Challenge

5 x Community Challenge
18 x Global
10 x Outdoor

Cubs Activity

24 x Camper
35 x Global
28 x Navigator
9 x Outdoor Plus
11 x Promise

At present, 'soon to be redundant' badges can still be obtained from our supplier. Sue will attempt to meet all requests until the changeover date.

Waterside Lodge

WELCOME to Janet Drittler who has just taken up her post of part time Administrator - sharing duties with Sue Abbott.

Re-painting and maintenance of the Dragon Boats by volunteer staff has just been completed ready for a new season's activity and racing. Many thanks to all those involved – you know who you are.

Please feel free to contact Sue or Janet for bookings and availability of the craft.

Nepal Scout on BBC

From: The World Scout Bureau

Friday, May 1, 2015

[WOSM News](#)

Scout volunteers are helping in the rescue of bodies and victims trapped under collapsed structures after the earthquake. Watch this interview from the BBC: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-32507783>

More information on how Scouts worldwide are helping and supporting the Scouts of Nepal and how you can help by donating to the appeal can be found here: <http://scout.org/node/64081/about>

St George's Day Parade

From: Lawrence Rimmer:-

Please find below a copy of a text I received from a parent of one of my cub scouts shortly after returning home from the parade. To know a parent took the time to make such a small and thoughtful gesture helps make all the hard work worthwhile.

I was wondering if it might be worth putting in the newsletter so as many members as possible within Southport District get to see it. Although it was sent to me, I think it is relevant to all.

"Hi Lawrence

"Thank you to you and all the other leaders for all the hard work involved in today's parade.

"It was a sight to behold and lovely to see so many young people putting the effort in.

"Many thanks.

"Regards

"Lawrence"

We are excited to announce our new Chief Commissioner for England, Alex Peace-Gadsby. We spoke to Alex about her new role and all things volunteering...



Hi, Alex. Congratulations on your new appointment – can you tell us a bit about yourself?

Thank you! So, I live in Nottinghamshire where I'm a Scout leader in the Ashfield District. I mainly work between Nottingham and London; in my day job I own and run multiple businesses– the most significant of those being the clothing company, Musto. I also sit on various national and local charity boards. I've got two children – a Cub and a Beaver.

On a Friday night I'm a leader with Beaver Scouts and also Scouts and Explorers later in the evening. I love working with the Beaver Scouts – it's an age where they'll happily sign up for anything and it's a



real magical age for them, as I can even enthuse and entertain them by just putting on a pink wig, which is great! It's then really lovely to pick up with the young people again when they're older – you watch and help them develop and then, before you know

it, you're mentoring teenagers and helping them with opportunities for their CVs.

Sounds exhausting! Did you get involved in Scouts because your children joined?

I was involved in Scouts before that. My nephews – who are quite a bit older than my two – asked me to go along to a St George's Day parade with them. My mum was a schoolteacher so I think people naturally enlist my help for various things too.

So I'm standing in the car park waiting for the parade, surrounded by young people kicking around and waiting for things to get started, and it was just natural to me to start playing on the lines on the concrete and start an activity with them. Before you know it, along comes a Scout leader to recruit me. Eleven years later and the rest is history I suppose!

Are you excited to be the Chief Commissioner for England?

I'm really excited about the new role – there are of course various elements to it. I've watched and admired how a century-old organisation manages to keep refreshing and modernising itself and making itself relevant during the years and the chance to get strategically involved in creating another century's worth of Scouting is really exciting.

We're growing, which is great, and I want to help continue that, especially in areas where Scouting is needed the most and where young people can benefit most from it.

I also understand that volunteering commitments have changed too – we don't always have time to spend a week planning for example – so I'd like to help the on-going work to make it easier for people to volunteer in a flexible way and for our volunteering to keep evolving so we can keep bringing those joining lists down and the volunteer numbers up.

Parents will come along to Scouts and drop off their kids and they'll see the fantastic job leaders are doing and think, 'crikey, I could never do that.' They'll probably underestimate themselves or assume that they won't be able to dedicate the time needed for it. So we need to make it clear that it's not impossible to volunteer at Scouts – we'll give you all the support you need and loads of help along the way.

I'm mainly looking forward to getting out there and meeting as many people as possible. It'll be near impossible to meet every volunteer out there, but I want to be there to offer support to as many as possible and say 'thank you' for all the time and dedication they volunteer in Scouting.



What else would you like to see happen in Scouts? Community impact is a huge priority for me. There are some great opportunities out there. We've reinvented ourselves at Scouts so we can reinvent the way we help communities. There are only so many bird boxes the world needs so thinking beyond this and making lasting differences that are relevant to our own communities is crucial.

In my own community in Ashfield, we're looking at Explorer Scouts working alongside young people who aren't in employment, education or training and trying to let them experience excitement and personal challenges through Scouting so they can go back into education or training with confidence. Young people have told us that the community matters to them. As much as we're volunteers, we have a duty to help our young people make a difference – if they're telling us that they want to get involved, we really should facilitate it.

I'm so passionate about Scouting because I really believe in it and the young people are the key motivation.

Finally – what are the top three things you love about being a Scout leader?

Okay, in no particular order...

1. I love the way the Beaver Scouts keep me young by insisting that I have to sit on the floor with them in a circle and play 'Duck Duck Goose'. After a busy, stressful working week, it gives me the opportunity to play, be myself and be a kid again!
2. I love the feeling of being a mentor to the Scouts and Explorers. Having seen them grow up and see them develop, learn life skills and apply them, which puts them on a great path for the future, it's so rewarding.

3. I love the fact that there are thousands upon thousands of volunteers that are like one big family. No matter where we are in the world, we always seem to find each other! I was sitting on a plane a few weeks ago next to someone who was a Scout leader and we spent the entire flight talking about Scouting! Once it's in the blood that's it!

Thank you, Alex.

Nepal Scouts provide earthquake support

You will have seen the dreadful scenes from Nepal on the news. On Saturday, the worst earthquake since 1934 hit Nepal. The earthquake has claimed the lives of over 5,000 people, with hundreds of thousands currently homeless, many of whom are in need of medical attention.

Nepal Scouts are playing a major role in supporting their country in the clean-up operation and helping their local communities.

There are 20,000 Scouts and 12,000 Guides in Nepal and the following is an extract from an appeal by Rabin Dahal, Chief Commissioner Nepal Scouts:

On Saturday 25th April 2015 we have witnessed the most destructive earthquake to reach our country, resulting in over 5,000 deaths and many more injured or homeless. The Nepal Scouts pay a heartfelt tribute to the bereaved families and pledge to do all we can to bring assistance.

The World Organisation of the Scout Movement (WOSM) has opened a fund to support Scouting in Nepal. If you wish to support Scouting in Nepal, you can do so on the [WOSM website](#). Please write 'Nepal Earthquake 2015' in the Comment Box.

Many Scout counties in the UK are already involved with supporting Shelterbox, an international relief organisation that dispatches boxes containing an emergency shelter and vital supplies to support a family to communities around the world, overwhelmed by disaster and humanitarian crisis. They are already active with a team in Kathmandu. If you wish to support this work, you can contribute through their [website](#).

Donations can also be made via the [Disaster Emergency Committee](#).

You may wish to talk to your young people about this, and there is a range of resources available on [Programmes Online](#). You can also check out the International and Global Issues [badges](#).

"If there's one thing more powerful than a positive attitude, it's lack of it" – Anonymous

"Whatever you do, big or small, do it right or don't do it at all." Anthony