

All Leaders Meeting

Held on Tuesday 22nd November 2022 at 7.30pm at Penwortham Priory Academy.

Apologies: Margaret Eckton, Helen Carr, Ann Quinlan

Minutes of last meeting: Not available

Section reports:

As a reminder: Top Awards can be completed via our website to complete the online form. This goes direct to ADC/Descom. We are aware this has caused confusion.

Squirrels – 5th drey opening at 4th Bamber Bridge on 17th November. There is an open evening at Leyland St Mary's in December for all age groups, but the intention is to open Squirrels first and then follow on with other sections as practical.

Beavers – Funday has been arranged for those achieving Beaver Scout Bronze Award. This is to be held at Hoghton Scout hut on Sunday 27th November. Invitations have gone out.

Cubs – A series of events has been planned, but dates and venues have not yet been verified. More details to follow. Please watch the newsletter for more information.

Scouts – Master-at-arms day planned for March 19th at Bibby's Farm. Limited places available and this has already been shared on Facebook.

Explorers – Matrix has opened at 2nd Leyland Scout hut on Monday evenings. Stanhope is full. We are still looking for Leaders for a unit in Penwortham (day of the week yet to be decided). Plan is to open this in February/March.

Terra Noca is also nearly full.

Network – There is a trip to the Christmas Markets in Manchester on 3rd December.

Other News:

Nights Away - We have an issue with Nights Away Advisers which some of you are aware of. I have 2 volunteers currently going through the system and will be seeking a third. If you hold a camp permit and are interested, please email dc@southribblescouts.org.uk

Appointments – Up-to-date. Several people went through the meeting this week. We still have an issue with Appts Sec not being informed of the names of referees. This holds up people's appointments.

Training – Safety and Safeguarding compliance is now down to 1% which is really good, but we need to get to 0%.

First Aid and GDPR are now becoming more important and we will be chasing people to get these done. There is core training (used to be all appointments) on 25th Feb and 15th July 2023. Programme & People is a weekend 17-19th September 2023. First Aid training will be uploaded to the website as soon as they are available.

Badges – No Report

Media – We are in need of Good News Stories – please send to adccomms@southribblescouts.org.uk

Uniform – The shop closed on 3rd December. Open on 10th, but then closes until 14th January.

International – No Report

Guest Speaker – Victoria Dasilva, Assistant County Commissioner for Squirrels. Victoria spoke to us about the new Squirrels Section and how popular this is proving. In order to open a Squirrel Drey a group needs to complete the checklist and then submit their interest via the online form.

<https://www.scouts.org.uk/volunteers/running-your-section/running-a-squirrel-drey/how-to-start-a-squirrel-drey/>
There are over 700 dreys across the country and 8 within West Lancashire. There is a full 2 year programme available online so very little planning is needed at the beginning. Thank You Victoria

District Events:

AGM – This was poorly attended which means that very few people were able to put their views forward. This was linked to poor attendance at the District All Leaders meeting (21 people this evening). A discussion followed and lots of ideas were put forward – different larmeting for the meetings, the return of the badge stall, information stalls, return of separate section meetings and the use of a consistent venue and day. DC promised to move this forward in time for January meeting.

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Awards – The second awards ceremony is on 23rd November and is by invitation only. We did vote to carry these on, but numbers are now fewer. A further discussion overturned the decision from a previous meeting and it was felt that awards should be given more locally where possible. DC to move this forward. However, some form of celebration for those achieving awards during a period of time (all those awardees within a 12 month period) was felt to be a good idea.

St George's Day – Sunday 23rd April. Discussion was had over the arrangements for St George's Day. It was felt that a parade was a good way of advertising ourselves. There was a suggestion that we return to Worden Park and possibly even to St Mary's Church as this is the only venue big enough to hold 1000 people. DC asked for volunteers to organise this event and the following volunteered: Andy Chester, Mandi Richardson and Rik Whittaker.

District Camp – This is booked at Bibby's Farm for 16-18th June. The cost has not yet been agreed, but is thought to be around £40-45 per person. Squirrels are able to camp. It is not a family camp but all sections of groups and Explorer Units are invited to attend.

Appointments: Ann-Marie Fisher has been appointed as Chair of the Awards Advisory panel. Recommendations should still be sent to the DC. There is a form on scouts.org for this purpose, but an email is much more informative as to why the recommendation is being made.

Nights Away Advisers – Ollie Wood and Bill Martin have volunteered for this role and both are now going through the process with the County NAA. We are still seeking another member of the team, so if you have a camp permit and are interested, please contact DC.

Group Scout Leader at 9th Penwortham – Anne Freeman has been appointed to this role and will be joining GSL meetings as we move the group forward. Anne has done a considerable amount of work already alongside the Chairman and is well known within the group.

Next Meeting: Tuesday 24th January 2023. **Venue:** TBC.