

Contacts & Resources

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Scoutbase		www.scoutbase.org.uk
Scouts		www.scouts.org.uk
Scouting Resources		www.scoutingresources.org.uk

County Website: www.gln-scouts.org.uk



WOODSMOKE

Deadline for next issue: 20th March

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Woodsmoke is edited by Darren Dowling

News and information for everyone involved in Scouting in Barking & Dagenham

WOODSMOKE



March 2008

For the very latest see www.barking-dagenham-scouts.org.uk

Jill's Jottings

This month has been a busy one starting with the Mark Sutton. Due to Steve Wakeling not being available I volunteered to cover the First Aid base. It had a change of format, with each group being given an incident to deal with. One had an elderly man laying on the pavement with a wound on his head and a lady nearby with blood pumping from a wound on her leg. One keen Scout said "Well the old man has had his life so we can leave him" So you more mature people out there just watch your step!

We have also had a successful Module 3 and a good night swimming or should I say going mad in the swimming pool. I have also been out and about presenting Jack Petchey awards. A job i really enjoy.

Yesterday Rose and I took two little ladies to try out the walk for St George's Day, they enjoyed the fresh air and we enjoyed the exercise. Further details later. Looking forward to seeing you soon.

St. George's Day

This year the service will be held at St. Alban's, Vincent Road. We are hoping

to have a bit of drama which should prove interesting. Please do your best to support this service it is a great way to show Dagenham that we are alive and active. Exact details will be sent to you shortly.

Census

A BIG THANKYOU to all the groups that managed to input their census returns on time and by themselves. I only had to input two groups, and am still awaiting my bunch of flowers from the 17th, I got a slightly different gift from the 15th, thanks Trevor. Next month I will give a more detailed report, unfortunately we appear to be down again this year. This does not reflect the hard work going on in our groups, but I think it does reflect the increased diversity in the borough. The district team will be looking at the groups that have made a loss to see if there is anything extra we can do to support you.

Health Update

Nikki is now a couple of weeks into her Radiotherapy and doing well so we can be thankful for that.

Sainsbury's Active Kids

Yet again Scouts are able to register for

the scheme, so register your group and start collecting.

cides with the Sixer's Camp.

Jill May
District Commissioner

Sponsored Walk

On the 18th October we will be holding a sponsored walk at Chigwell Row, we have decided to run this due to the fact we had to cut out the Sponsored Swim. It will be half for your group and half for district. I hope to get the forms out before the summer holidays. There will be a date for return and NO forms will be accepted after that date. The date coin-

I would like to thank Jill for letting me eat her dinner at the Fellowship night out. I really enjoyed it although I think she had more on her plate than I had on mine!!!

Ps. I did make up for it by turning up at the Appointments evening the next week.

Roger Scowen

Urban Myths

Myth: Kids must wear goggles to play conkers

Reality: This is one of the oldest chestnuts around, a truly classic myth. A well-meaning head teacher decided children should wear safety goggles to play conkers. Subsequently some schools appear to have banned conkers on 'health & safety' grounds or made children wear goggles, or even padded gloves!

Realistically the risk from playing conkers is incredibly low and just not worth bothering about. If kids deliberately hit each other over the head with conkers,

that's a discipline issue, not health and safety.



Reproduced by kind permission of the HSE
<http://www.hse.gov.uk/myth/>

IE Swimming Club

Iford East Scout District Swimming Club
Beavers/Cubs/Scouts/Guides
Monday evenings 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Fun swimming, badges and Gala training

All non swimmers must wear a buoyancy aid

Iford Swimming Pool Entry £1

For section meetings you will need to book to avoid overcrowding

Contact Dave on

Upcoming Events

March			
1	Handcraft	6 th HQ	http://www.badscouts.org.uk/handcraft/
1	County Scout Chess		
2	County Cub Chess	Chingford	
3	CL Meeting	6 th HQ	
6	SL Meeting	17 th HQ	
11	BL Meeting	21 st HQ	
11	Appointments	Salvation Army	
14-16	Sport Relief	National	http://www.comicrelief.com/
15	County Swimming Gala		
15	Beaver Easter Egg Hunt	Hargreaves	www.badscouts.org.uk/easteregg hunt/
17	CRB Checks	21 st HQ	
April			
2	Module1		
8	EL Meeting	6 th HQ	
12	Maurice Pass Pioneering	Thriftwood	www.badscouts.org.uk/pioneering/
24	ADCs Meeting		
27	St George's Day	St. Alban's	www.badscouts.org.uk/stgeorgesday/
+lots more! Check out http://www.badscouts.org.uk/calendar_index.html			

Beaver Easter Egg Hunt - 15th March - Hargreaves

11 a.m. - 2 p.m. £3 per Beaver, £1 per leader. Packed lunch, scruff clothes. Each group is to supply and run a game for the Beavers.

Further details at: <http://www.barking-dagenham-scouts.org.uk/easteregg hunt/>

Maurice Pass Pioneering - 12th April - Thriftwood

9 a.m. - 4 p.m. £3 per person. Packed lunch and suitable gear for pioneering. Each group is asked to bring some of their own equipment.

Further details at: <http://www.barking-dagenham-scouts.org.uk/pioneering/>

Training & Appointments

First Response

The next date is 20th July, venue to be confirmed. Only 10 places are available - minimum of 6 in the class, if we do not get minimum interest, by 15th June, the course will be postponed. Also, there may be a charge for this course (to be determined).

dates about training requirements - but they have not attended modules 1 & 3. This means that we are unable to forward their details to enable them to receive their Appointment Card

Training for the above modules must be done by ALL.

Training

There are several people who have been CRB'd and attended appointments, but we have not seen them since. At the appointments meeting we advise candi-

If the above applies to YOU please contact me immediately.

Chris Poole

adclt@barking-dagenham-scouts.org.uk

TOP SECRET - TOP SECRET - TOP SECRET - TOP SECRET - TOP SECRET - Training Dates

All modules held at 17th B&D HQ, Wilmington Gardens, Wednesday evenings, 7:15 p.m. for a PROMPT 7:30 p.m. start. All welcome, just turn up.

Module 1 2nd April 2008
10th September 2008

Module 3 4th June 2008
Provisional (5th Nov. 2008)

- TOP SECRET - TOP SECRET - TOP SECRET - TOP SECRET - TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET



The GLNE County website contains extensive information on the training scheme, modules, funding and more.

With a full diary of the years training modules, detailed information on how to get there, application forms and help on funding it is well worth a look for all leaders:

<http://www.glne-scouts.org.uk/training/>



NEWHAM & BARKING & DAGENHAM SCOUT DISTRICTS TRAINING

3 Modules in 1!

Module 5 - FUNDAMENTALS OF SCOUTING



Module 6 - CHANGES IN SCOUTING



Module 7 - DIVERSITY IN SCOUTING

Sunday 20th April 2008

Gladstone Hall, Evesham Road
Stratford, E15
(HQ of 11th Newham West)

OR

Sunday 6th July 2008

Scout Hut, Wilmington Gardens,
Barking IG11
(HQ of 17th Barking & Dagenham)

10.00 a.m to 4.00 p.m. Both days

Please bring your own packed lunch. Tea & Coffee provided.

Bookings to:

dc@newhamscouts.org.uk or
adclt@barking-dagenham-scouts.org.uk

adult training

We are back!

23-29 May 2009

cubjam 2009

Gilwell Park

THE CARNIVAL BEGINS

CUBJAM is a Jamboree-style event open to Cub Scouts across the United Kingdom.

CUBJAM gives Cub Scouts the opportunity to integrate, and make friends with Cub Scouts from not just other Packs, but other towns and other Counties.

CUBJAM gives the Cubs the opportunity to experience a week-long camp, with all activities and events provided by the CUBJAM team.

Cubs are welcome in contingents of any size from Packs, Groups, Districts, or even Counties.

Just visit our website, or phone us to register your interest in attending, or if you have any questions about CUBJAM.

If you would like some leaflets or flyers to circulate to local Scouting, please complete the Enquiry Form online, or phone us.

**Register at www.cubjam.org.uk
Or phone 0844 884 9333 for information**

Explorers - Survey

I am conducting a survey (with permission from the District Team) to find out the following:

1. A list of **all** Scouts in your Troop aged 13 years and above
2. A list of **all** your Scouts that have gone on to Explorers since the Unit(s) opened, no matter how long they stayed
3. A list of **all** those that you know **still** attend Explorers or Young Leaders on a regular basis
4. A list of all Young Leaders that help at **any** section in your Group

This information should have already been handed back to me by the end of February. Currently only the 6th, 9th and 10/18th have replied.

Thank you for your help in this matter.

Rosemary Oakwell

Network

The next Network meeting will be held at the 21st B&D HQ at the rear of St. Cedd's Church in Lodge Avenue on Monday the 31st March at 7:30.

invitation is open to all 18 to 25 year olds in the District, hope to see you soon.

**Rob Craig
ADC Network**

To find out more about Network this

Not for 'kids'

Sport Relief	14 - 16 March	http://www.comicrelief.com/
Apex Challenge	10 - 11 May	http://www.apexchallenge.co.uk/
Malvern Challenge	27 - 29 June	http://www.sr-mc.org/
Sun Run	4 - 6 July	http://www.sr-mc.org/
Essex Jamboree	26 Jul - 2 Aug	http://www.essexscouts.org.uk/jamboree2008/
Camp Downe	26 Jul - 4 Aug	http://www.campdowne.org.uk/
Poacher	26 Jul - 2 Aug	http://www.poacher.org.uk/

EXPLORING

The Explorer Challenge Trophy has been launched with the Scouting Quiz Challenge. Thanks to Darren for the questions which were rather challenging. He would be pleased to know that one of the new Explorers from the 9th achieved the highest score of 15 out of 25, beating even the Explorer Leaders. Explorers should be asking for your signature in order to prove they have been at an event or Young Leader placement for the ongoing attendance challenge. The next one starting after the half term break is a cooking challenge, a Ready, Steady Cook type challenge but without any form of heating, no cookers, no hot water (except for washing up) and a bag of ingredients. I am not going to give them any clues apart from this one "Think about stuffing vegetables". If you want to come along and watch and help take part in the marking you are more than welcome to pop along.

We have had to say some goodbyes. I am not sure if I mentioned Louise Keeley last time, but she together with Alfie Barker have reached Network age. Luke Smith is also moving on a few months early. We have also had to sadly say goodbye to several explorers who now they have reached college or work are finding it difficult to fit everything in. One young lady is training on a Tuesday to play cricket for Essex. As a result of this I will produce a new up to date Young Leader List so that you can make sure your Young Leaders are legal. These will be available at the next section meetings.

We are also pleased to say that we have had around 10 new Explorers since January. They all seem to be settling in well and look like they are going to become valuable members of the Explorer team. If you have any 13 year olds let us know so that we can begin the process of linking. We are also finding that on their first night it is helpful if they come with someone they know either a present Explorer or an ex Explorer who has been CRB checked. If you can send their record cards with them as well that will also be useful as we will then have up to date information for nights away, hikes and other staged badges.

I attended the Columbus committee meeting this week (Cook decided to be leader led) and they have begun to plan some future events including a big camp in October and some fundraising activities. It was very business like and representatives from the Cook half were invited to input to the plans that affect the whole unit. On top of this the meeting was held in Starbucks who were obviously used to that sort of thing happening because they just let us get on with it. We are going to be around at the district events in the next couple of months so if you have any Scouts approaching 14 why not introduce them to an Explorer. Why not check out our website to see what we are up to ?

Shelley Goodman
Explorer Scout Leader

Peace Light

I went to Ireland this Christmas and my granddad asked me to carry the peace light at a mass on the 21st December 2007.

This peace light was a lantern which was lit in Bethlehem and it travelled around the world until it reached Cork. It was carried all the way by various Scouts, through Europe to England and from Liverpool it went across the sea to Dublin. In Dublin it was sent by train to Cork where it was collected and brought to Ballyvolane. On the 21st December 2007 in the church of St. Oliver's in Bal-



lyvolane I was asked to walk with the Scout Leader, Colin Heas, up the centre of aisle carrying the peace light. When I reached the altar I gave the light to Fr. James McSweeney who is the chaplain of Lee Valley Scout County. There must have been at least 200 people at the mass and I was very scared at the time, however I was also proud that I was representing my Cub Pack at the 9th Barking & Dagenham.

Martin Power
Cub (9th B&D)

Gang Shows

1st Leyton Gang Show 2008
15 March 2008

Further details on these and how you can get involved in Showstoppers at:

Waltham Forest South Gang Show
1-3 May 2008

www.gls-scouts.org.uk/gangshow/

Scouts Eating Out

All the Scouts were invited and 20 of us turned up on Friday the 25th of January 2008, for the 9th Scouts belated Christmas meal. It was very good and a laugh. It was great to socialise with all my friends that I have made within the group. I would definitely do it again, and hope to organise another one very soon. We were all told we had to dress smart, the boys had to wear a shirt and tie, while the girls had to wear either a skirt or dress, not trousers! Although this upset quiet a few of us girls I think it made a difference, we all looked very smart.



We were told to bring £20, for this we had the option of having 3 courses and our drinks, we were seated on 2 tables in our own area of the Liberty Bell, Romford. I felt grown up, being able to make my own choices and took some photos to prove how smart we looked.

**Lauren Morley
Scout (9th B&D)**



Race night

On Friday 1st February some of the leaders and parents went to a race night at the Casa Club in Oxlow Lane. It was a good night out for all in our party. The bets were 50p a time (or £2 if you bought ownership of the horse or dog). You picked your choice of horse or dog by number not name, as I was told, this way you did not need to apply for a gaming license. The organiser told you from the start if it would be a horse or dog race and after betting was finished he asked a child from the floor to come up and pick a DVD to play. There were eight races in all and I actu-

ally walked away with winnings (£1) but the last race was an extra in which everybody could bid for a number and win all the prize money. The last horse, number 8, was very popular and Darren, Julie and Sophie's dad Alan put their money together and bought the horse for £35, a good night for them as it came romping home winning them £100. I think I might be going to the next one if invited. Hope to see you all at District events and keep on Scouting.

**Your very own oompah loompah
T-Bag**

Daniel for helping and to Dave for running the competition.

Results

1st place - 10/18th & 1st B&D

2nd place - 6th B&D

3rd place - 16th & 9th B&D

Full results, including notes from the judges, can be found at:

www.badscouts.org.uk/marksutton/

The competition provides an ideal opportunity for inexperienced Scouts to learn some important skills as only four members of each Patrol count towards the final scores. This allows the other mem-



bers to get a feel for the competition and its content without having to worry about their ability.

Troops are also welcome to enter 'part Patrols' which can be added to another group or made up into a mixed Patrol. It would be nice to start seeing some Scouts from the 15th or the 21st at some

District Scout events.

**Darren Dowling
Acting ADC Scouts**

On the 26th January 2008 the Mark Sutton was held at the 6th Barking and Dagenham HQ. 7 Patrols this year from the 1st, 4th, 6th, 7th, 9th, 10/18th, 16th and 19th. First place was 10th/18th, in second was the 6th barking and Dagenham and in third was the 16th and the 9th. There was a number of bases we had to do there was cooking, knots, mapping, compass, quiz, first aid and inspection it was a fun day and we all came home knowing something new.

**Sophie Clark
Scout (9th B&D)**

This was a great event because we got tested on our knowledge which wasn't very good. I still enjoyed myself though so it can't have been that bad. It was a very enjoyable day.

I think our patrol struggled on knots especially and a little bit on compasses and mapping. We did well on cooking, first aid and inspection. I think that our favourite base was cooking because we worked well as a team and we made a very delicious meal. Also the leaders were surprised and said that it was nice to see an all girls patrol.

Overall I really enjoyed the day and thanks to the leaders for organising it.

**Gemma Bailey
Scout (9th B&D)**

good ideas that wouldn't have popped into your average SL's head. The 17th look to be very active with adventurous activities at home and abroad! The 10/18th and 19th (and I am sure the 1st although I don't have their information) are working well together and visiting many London landmarks, museums, working at Wellgate Farm and other Scouting activities.

It is good to see those Troops providing an active programme for their Scouts.

I know some of the 'management' levels worry about census figures and such like at this time of the year, but for me, if you are doing Scouting as Scouting should be done then either a) I don't care how many Scouts you have or, more likely, b) young people will flock to your Troop to get a chance to join in with the vision that BP laid down over 100 years ago, and the only problem I have is trying to keep track of what you are up to!

I would ask Troops to be prepared to share some ideas and activities at the next SL meeting, so bring along a very brief outline of something you did that

worked well, something that isn't run of the mill, something that you have not heard of other Troops doing.

Lasting Memories

I spend a good deal of time putting photos on the District (and County) website. There are some really good images to be found on there and they serve as a lasting memory and tribute to the hard work and dedication of volunteers in B&D. Why not have a browse through them and be inspired to raise up to the challenge of quality Scouting?

www.barking-dagenham-scouts.org.uk/photo_index.html

Upcoming Events:

SL Meeting Thursday 6th Mar
8 p.m. at 17th B&D Wilmington Gardens

Pioneering Day 12th April
Thriftwood

Scout Rally / Incident Hike 10/11 May
Chigwell Row

Darren Dowling
Acting ADC Scouts

Mark Sutton

The Mark Sutton tests Scouts by using a number of bases; First Aid, Cooking, Knots, Map, Compass and Quiz.

There were 7 Patrols this year from the 1st, 4th, 6th, 7th, 9th, 10/18th, 16th and 19th B&D. Thank you to the 6th for hosting the event, to all the leaders who helped man the bases during the day, to



Pantomime report

Hello to all in Scouting, my name is Francis van Dongen and I belong to the 9th Barking & Dagenham Cub Scout Pack. On Saturday 2nd February me and my brother Luke (a Beaver Scout) joined many Scouts and Leaders from the District on a trip to see 'Puss in Boots', the Panto at Aldersbrook Players. I was already familiar with the story and just couldn't miss the chance to see it being acted out on stage. The cast were great and very funny; my favourite character was the cat. There were (I think) about five cast members, who frequently changed costume to play different parts; its amazing how they managed to do it so well. I really enjoyed the audience participation; the shouting out and, especially, the part when the actors threw stuff out into the audience. What a good laugh, everyone seemed to enjoy the shot. My brother and I talked about it all evening, telling our Mum what a great time we had. Mum even got round the fact that we taken liberties by drinking several cans of Pepsi throughout the afternoon! She doesn't like us having fizzy drinks—boring!

With 'Puss in Boots' fresh in my mind I decided to do some research on the net and discovered that the story dates back to the 16th century. It's one of a collection of short stories written down by a Frenchman called Charles Perrault, published in 1697 under the name of his son, Pierre, titled 'Stories and Tales from the Past'. They were not his original stories, but part of a storytelling tradition that had been going on long before Perrault's lifetime. Some of the well known stories in the collection include, Sleeping Beauty, Little Red Riding Hood, Cinderella and Tom Thumb.

I'm certainly looking forward to going on many more Scouting trips in the future. Being a Scout is brilliant because you get to do lots of fun things and learn many new skills, whilst being part of one big family.

A huge thank you to all our Leaders for doing such a fantastic job.

Francis van Dongen
Cub Scout (9th B&D)

Astronomer Badge

We have been doing the Astronomer Badge which means we have been doing:

- A model or picture of the Solar System
- Making up fact cards about the Sun and planets.
- Naming 3 constellations.

- Describing the difference between a star and a planet.
- Observing the Moon and describing three things about it.

Hannah Nicholls
Cub Scout (9th B&D)

District Resources

District Directory

Details of how to obtain the directory online can be obtained by emailing the webmaster:

webmaster@barking-dagenham-scouts.org.uk

Nights Away & One Day Activity Forms

These important forms, and details of how to use them, can be found at:

www.barking-dagenham-scouts.org.uk/nightsaway/

Out and About

A guide to places to see and things to do, within reach of our District:

www.barking-dagenham-scouts.org.uk/outandabout/

Jack Petchey

The RF1 form that is used to send details of applicants for the Jack Petchey award can be found at:

www.barking-dagenham-scouts.org.uk/jackpetchey/

Risk Assessment Form

A sample Risk Assessment form can be found at:

www.barking-dagenham-scouts.org.uk/resource_forms.html

A more detailed version can be found at:

www.barking-dagenham-scouts.org.uk/incidenthike/2005/

Minutes

Minutes of the sectional meetings can be found on the District website. For details on how to obtain them email:

webmaster@barking-dagenham-scouts.org.uk

Forums

These forums are an excellent source of information and a good place to chat with other leaders and swap ideas. Why not sign up today at:

www.barking-dagenham-scouts.org.uk/forums.html

Event Attendance & Records

A record of groups who attended and 'won' events in 2007 can be found detailed at:

www.barking-dagenham-scouts.org.uk/event_index.html

Correction: The editor incorrectly added Comic Relief Red Nose Day to the Calendar. The next Red Nose Day occurs in 2009, but there are Sport Relief events in 2008

SCOUT SHOUT

Mark Sutton

A full report can be found elsewhere in this issue but congratulations to the 10/18th B&D and also well done to the two Scouts from the 1st that mixed in well with the winning Patrol.

Full results, including all the comments on the judges sheets (which make interesting reading - my favourite comment was "Don't have an accident in Goresbrook Road on Friday nights".) are available at:

www.barking-dagenham-scouts.org.uk/marksuton/

EVERY Scout who turned up did themselves proud and they should not be too downhearted at any of the scores. To be honest I would be absolutely amazed if any Patrol scored nearly 100 at every base. I know the high standard of the marking guidelines because I wrote them to be that way on purpose - to challenge each and every Scout.

Maurice Pass Pioneering

The Maurice Pass Pioneering competition will be taking place on the 12th April at Thriftwood. This is open to Scouts of all abilities and training and guidance will be given to those Patrols who need or request it. Please bring any pioneering equipment you may have (ropes, staves, poles, gloves etc) as if we have a good turnout even Thriftwood will not have enough gear to go round for big projects.

www.barking-dagenham-scouts.org.uk/pioneering/

There is a wealth of pioneering resources available on the website too so why not get a bit of practice in?

Pioneering is one of those things that Scouting still does best and you very rarely see it elsewhere. A Beaver could start with a simple camp gadget while Explorers could construct a full blown automatically raising drawbridge. Some of my Scouts favourite times have been while pioneering - constructing a truly monstrous (yet useful) bridge requires skill, teamwork, effort and no small amount of swearing and laughing. I still remember constructing a large raising bridge with some of my Explorers at a December camp, only to find that when we pulled on the pulley the bridge bit stayed stubbornly put and the framework and base lifted into the air instead. It was a bridge of sorts but not your usual design!

Camps, trips, events and activities

I have details of what the 9th, 10/18th, 15th, 17th and 19th have been up to in 2007 and what they plan to do in 2008. However I still have not heard from the other Troops. Can you please pass on a simple list of what you up to before the next SL meeting.

It is interesting to note some of the activities. Trevor is planning on doing some whittling and glass blowing with his Scouts, I am sure those are two

CUB CHIT CHAT

Hi all you cubby people, hope you are all well. Only one event for the Cub section last month, which was the Fun Swim.

Thanks to all who supported this event, especially the 65 Cubs and Scouts.

Thanks to the members of the Fellowship for doing the raffle for us. The amount raised, with entrance money and the raffle, was £158.25. Well done.

St. George's Day Parade and service plans are underway so watch this space for details.

I will report on Founder's Day Service, Handcraft Competition and the County Cub Chess in the next issue.

One or two groups went camping in February and I hope they had good camps. I'm sorry I didn't manage to visit you but I have been out and about with my Scouts. Don't forget NAN forms are to be in 3 weeks before you go to camp.

Please let me know if you have any Cubs under 9½ and Over 9½ that can swim one length for the County Swimming Gala. I need 3 for each age group and the strokes are breaststroke, backstroke and freestyle. I also need a couple of Scouts in both the Under 12 and Over 12 categories. Call me on

That's it from me, take care

**Chilly Akela Rosie
ADC Cubs**

Upcoming Events

3 March CL Meeting
6th B&D HQ, 8:15 p.m.

15 March County Swimming Gala
Fulwell Cross, 6:45 p.m.

Akela's Antics

I have been completing some more sections of the London Loop with my Scouts. We started off at Elstree and Borehamwood Station and walked up a steepish hill, turned left and in front of us was another hill. Got to the top and I am pleased to say it was flat or downhill. I would like to say there were no more hills but that would have been a lie. After a number of miles through very pretty woodlands we stopped for lunch. A few miles after this, you guessed it, a very steep hill. Baggy said "first ones up get to sit on the bench" but the bench was only halfway up! Oh No! I did get to the top and have a five minute rest. On then to Cockfosters Station where T and the van were a welcome site after ten and a half miles and this was just Saturday—tomorrow another nine and half miles.

Sunday—off we go again to Cockfosters Station, today we had a very pleasant walk through the woods following Turkey Brook, over a number of stiles and passing through a number of kissing gates and a couple of small hills we arrived at Enfield Lock Station and T with the van.

I tell you the best bit was getting in the van and having my bar of chocolate (bliss!) and the getting in a lovely bubble bath, getting out was a bit more difficult, and then into bed, all to be done again next weekend and in the Easter holidays. At 53 this OUT in Scouting is getting a bit much.

Beaver Programme Ideas and Resource Share Day



Please don't forget to come to the next Beaver Scout Leaders Meeting on the 11th March with your ideas and suggestions for what you would like to see at an informal ideas and resource swap shop.

I proposed this for all of us leaders, at the last meeting, to get together during an informal setting for maybe one morning or afternoon to throw around ideas, share

resources and programme stuff.

Do let me know what you would like to see at the workshop then we can decide on a date and venue. Once this is done I'll type up sessions from things that you have requested to see etc.

**Honest Leigh
District Beaver Scout Leader**

Cub/Beaver Fun Day



All Beavers and Cubs are invited to Gilwell Park's Fundays being held on the 21st & 22nd June 2008. Not only will they get to have a fun filled day out they will also be taking part in a major national event. Don't miss out!

A spectacular day out, great value for money and so easy to organise - just book your places, travel to Gilwell and let us provide the fun...

£13 for young people and £8 for leaders

Further details, including a flyer, programme and booking form, can be found at:

<http://www.fundays.org.uk/>

You can also book online at:

www.scouts.org.uk/fundays/

BEAVER BITS

Hello to all, when you read this the District Handcraft Competition will have been and gone, I hope all the Beavers had a good time making their exhibits.

The District Beaver Egg Hunt will be on Saturday 15th March, 11 am to 2 pm. We will be in Hush Inn Hall at Hargreaves as the Lombardy Hall is being used by someone else. £3 per Beaver, £1 for Leaders or helpers. Bring a packed lunch and scruff clothes, Leaders to bring a game. The scout shop will be open again early like last year.

If any Beaver Colony in the District is planning to take Beavers out for the day or weekend I must know before you go on any outing

My two District Beaver Leaders and I will be going round all Beaver Colonies this year to see how you all are.

St. George's day will be at St. Albans, Dagenham, on Sunday 27th April, time and routes to follow .

We had four Beavers from our District enter the County Connect-4 Competition. They did very well but unfortunately did not come anywhere. We have a forum on our website with lots of ideas for craft & programmes, and you can talk to each other on this forum so why don't you all take a look at this.

Beaver Meetings for this year 2008:
Tue. March 11th at 21st HQ, 8:15 pm
Tue. May 20th at 9th HQ, 8:30 pm
Mon. Jul. 7th at 21st HQ, 8:15 pm
Tue. Sep. 9th at 9th HQ, 8:30 pm
Tue. Nov. 11th at 21st HQ, 8:15 pm

**Ron Pringle
ADC Beavers**

Walton on-the-Naze

Just a reminder that you should have given your numbers by now to Ron for the Walton trip on June 14th. Families are very welcome to come along if they wish to, but you must stipulate to parents that they will be responsible for their own children. Coach seats are £10 each; however you may want to mention that additional costs will be needed for spending money etc. Walton's Pier sells wrist bands or token schemes for rides if you are thinking of taking your Beaver Scouts on there.

This has always proved to be a brilliant day



out for the Beavers and their families and is yet another great opportunity for us all to do something together as a District. Hope to see you there. Book your places quickly!

**Honest Leigh
District Beaver Scout Leader**

Beaver Scout General Chit Chat

Hello everyone. We are now back into the swing of everything since the start of the New Year and already the Beavers are preparing for a fun packed couple of months ahead at the 9th Barking & Dagenham.

January and February have been spent making items for the District Handcraft Competition, as well as getting to work on the Global Challenge Badge. Part of the badge involves the Beavers looking at Beaver Scouts from another country. We chose Japan and spent an evening learning the Japanese Beaver Promise, some Japanese games and how to say hello. It was quite funny listening to every one trying to say "Konnichi Wa."

To end January we celebrated the Chinese New Year by making dragon balloon masks, year of the rat pictures and by sampling some Chinese delicacies such as noodles and prawn crackers. (Which the Beavers loved I might add).



Useful Website Links

Please don't forget to look at the Beaver section on the district forum. It can be such a valuable source of programme ideas and resources. Use what is on there already or suggest some of your own ideas. A very good website to look at is <http://beavers.westlancashirescouts.org.uk/programme.htm>

As Ron has already mentioned, he, Mandy and I will be visiting you and your Beaver Scouts during the next couple of months to

generally see how things are going. (And I really don't mind running a game or two!)

The following link has some handy record card templates to use for Beaver Scout Challenge badges. <http://www.clwydscouts.org.uk/resources/index.php> (scroll down when you are on the web page to find the Beavers bit).



Reporter of the Year

I love this idea and think that it is a great way to encourage our young people to give us their feedback about the different activities, events, outings and camps etc that they have attended or been on. Please do ask your Beaver Scouts to submit something to Darren. I certainly can't wait to see what they've been up to.

Don't forget that anyone can ask to place an article in Woodsmoke each month, so do have a go at submitting something (then you won't have to see me rambling on all of the time) whether its ideas and suggestions, what you've been up to or the latest joke that you've heard!

That's about it for now. Have a great month.

**Honest Leigh
District Beaver Scout Leader**