

Contacts & Resources

District contacts and useful websites

District Commissioners			
DC	Jill May	dc@barking-dagenham-scouts.org.uk	
ADC Beavers	Ron Pringle	adcbeavers@barking-dagenham-scouts.org.uk	
ADC Cubs	Rosemary Oakwell	adccubs@barking-dagenham-scouts.org.uk	
ADC Scouts	Richard Blunden	adcscouts@barking-dagenham-scouts.org.uk	
DESC	TBA	desc@barking-dagenham-scouts.org.uk	
DESA	TBA	desa@barking-dagenham-scouts.org.uk	
ADC Network	Rob Craig	network@barking-dagenham-scouts.org.uk	
Local Training Manager	Chris Poole	adclt@barking-dagenham-scouts.org.uk	
ADC General Duties	Pauline Wakeling	adcgd@barking-dagenham-scouts.org.uk	
ADC Special Needs	Steve May	adcsn@barking-dagenham-scouts.org.uk	
District Executive			
District Chairman	Alec Everitt	chairman@barking-dagenham-scouts.org.uk	
District Treasurer	Roger Scowen	treasurer@barking-dagenham-scouts.org.uk	
District Secretary	Pam Guest	secretary@barking-dagenham-scouts.org.uk	
District Support			
Appointments	Veronica Poole	appointments@barking-dagenham-scouts.org.uk	
Thriftwood Reps.	Pauline & Steve Wakeling	thriftwood@barking-dagenham-scouts.org.uk	
	Steve May	communications@glne-scouts.org.uk	
Webmaster	Darren Dowling	webmaster@barking-dagenham-scouts.org.uk	
Woodsmoke Editor	Darren Dowling	woodsmoke@barking-dagenham-scouts.org.uk	
Resources			
Scout Information Centre	0845 3001818	info.centre@scout.org.uk	
Scoutbase	www.scoutbase.org.uk	Scouts	www.scouts.org.uk
GLNE County	www.glne-scouts.org.uk	Scouting Resources	www.scoutingresources.org.uk



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Darren Dowling is the Editor of *Woodsmoke*



March 2009

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

WOODSMOKE



4th/11th win Mark Sutton

Congratulations to the composite Patrol from the 4th B&D and 11th B&D on winning the 2009 Mark Sutton competition.

Scoring 488. 5 points out of a possible 700, the Bulldogs just nosed in front of the 6th Ravens by 11 points.

Even the lowest scoring Patrols managed a respectable “over half marks” but the tough marking scheme allows for Scouts to gain experience and confidence in Scouting skills whilst still providing a challenge.

“I hope you all came away knowing something you didn’t know before, even if it was just the colour of the Teletubbies custard”

In this issue:

**Mark Sutton Results
Bill & Mary retire
Van emission plan halted
Environment Day at the 1st Training Courses
Mary Flack—Gone Home**

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

Deadline for April Issue: 20th March

Jill's Jottings

News and views from the DC

Up to the March jottings already, the year is racing ahead again. My New Year resolutions are still being kept, a bit more weight going despite two pub lunches this week. Veronica and I went to the Camelot for a working lunch (yes we did do lots of work) and had a right giggle, it was obviously "ladies that lunch" day as there were only about three men amongst large groups of women. We may have to go back in another school holiday to see if it is a regular thing, well it has to be done doesn't it. I am also keeping up with visiting friends or relatives I don't see very often.

We have only had the Mark Sutton since the last jottings, when I went everyone had their head down working so I think all went well. Richard will be reporting on that. I have been out and about presenting Jack Petchey awards. One of the recipients had since left due to going to a football club, can I remind leaders that if that happens make sure you offer them another Group on another night.

I am sure you are all pleased that the snow has gone and the nights getting lighter so roll on spring.

Health

Nikki is progressing well with her chemo and looks really well. She has such a positive attitude, long may it last. Love to all three of you. Shelley has just



Jill May is the District Commissioner

spent a few days in hospital with an infection, now home and doing too much. Love to all the Goodmans.

Happy Grandparents

Roy and Val have now joined this elite club, welcome, it is a great club to join. Congratulations to you both and also to Neil and his wife for producing a lovely grandchild. I hope you have great fun together.

Swimming Gala

In the last Woodsmoke I told you about the sad decision to cancel the Swimming Gala, I believe the event goes back at least thirty years. I wrote to Jon Cruddas and Margaret Hodge to explain the problem. I am pleased to say I have had replies from both, they are taking up the problem and I will let you know what the outcome is.

Umbrella Camp

No we are not going to camp with an umbrella. The idea is one that I pinched from my Guiding days. We all know that camping is something that most young people join Scouting for and sometimes for various reasons Groups can't take them. We are booking some sites for the weekend of 12- 14 June. You will plan your own menus, activities, in fact everything BUT there will be

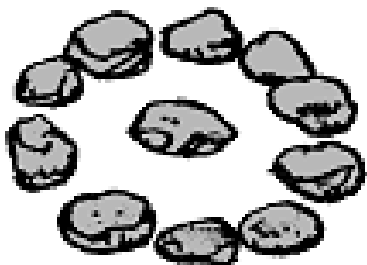
District Diary

Upcoming Events

March			
2	CSL Meeting	6 th B&D HQ	
5	SL Meeting	17 th B&D HQ	
6	Hand in Handcraft Exhibits	6 th B&D HQ	
7	Beaver & Cub Handcraft	6 th B&D HQ	www.badscouts.org.uk/handcraft/
8	County Cub Chess		
9	Chief Scout Awards	Gilwell	www.gln-scouts.org.uk/awards/
10	BL Meeting	21 st B&D HQ	
14	County Swimming Gala		
16	CRB Check Evening	21 st B&D HQ	
17	Appointments	Salvation Army	
19	District Executive		
28	Beaver Easter Egg Hunt	Hargreaves	www.badscouts.org.uk/easteregghunt/
29	First Response	21 st B&D HQ	
X	DC's Explorer Challenge	Moved to June	www.badscouts.org.uk/dcchallenge/
30	Network	21 st B&D HQ	
April			
1	Module 1	17 th B&D HQ	
6	EL Meeting	Rothwell Road	
18	Maurice Pass Pioneering	Thriftwood	www.badscouts.org.uk/mauricepass/
23	ADCs Meeting	Bromhall Road	
26	St. George's Day Parade	TBA	www.badscouts.org.uk/stgeorgesday/
27	Network	21 st B&D HQ	
29-	Showstoppers	Kenneth More	www.gln-scouts.org.uk/gangshow/
+lots more! Check out http://www.barking-dagenham-scouts.org.uk/calendar/			

Gone Home

Jill May (DC)



Mary Flack was a Cub Scout leader in Barking for many years. She started at the 10th Barking, meeting at the Congregational Church Upney Lane, now the United Reformed.

The 10th merged with the 17th Barking in the 70's and that is where she stayed for some time. Mary was ACC Cubs for GLNE for many years and was one of the County trainers.

Sadly Mary lost her long battle with Cancer on 20th February.

We remember her husband Ken and daughters Zoe and Sarah and families in our prayers .

Module 1

Jill May (DC)

cided to run an extra Module 1 training day on the 25th March, 7 p. m. at the 17th B& D HQ (Wilmington Gardens).

We are opening this to GSLs, ADCs and any District leaders who wish to join us. This will be useful for you all.

Please give Chris Poole a ring if you can attend.

Module 1 is part of the training for appointments panel members. Alfie (from Newham) and myself have de-

some experienced leaders there for support should you need it. We will help with menus, programmes if you need it. The idea is that any of you who usually only camp with other Groups, or just need that bit of support take the plunge and come along with your youngsters. The cut- off date is the 7th March, so contact me quickly to register an interest. There should not be any young person in the District who does not have access to a camp.

Jack Petchey

As many of you will have read in the local paper the credit crunch has even caught up with Jack Petchey. The amount now being given for awards has returned to £200 and the leaders will now no longer get a monetary award, they will get a certificate and medallion. We will also not get as many awards so the team will be looking into ways to make the distribution as fair as possible. Those of you who are still outstanding for this year need to put them in to me as soon as possible. Thanks

Appointments

There is to be a change in the way the appointments process is managed with new AA forms and a new process. I have sent for leaflets for all GSLs and will get them to you as soon as they arrive. The new system should work out quicker so please bear with us during the changeover

Census

Thank you to all the Groups who got their numbers in on time. I only had problems with two Groups so, al-al-

though very annoying, it could have been worse. Congratulations to the Groups who have maintained or increased their numbers, make sure you come along to the Chartermark Evening and make as much noise as you can. Unfortunately and very disappointing some Groups have big losses and we will be looking into why this is happening. I have a couple of ideas up my sleeve so watch out. I must say a big thank you for the work you are doing, I know sometimes how hard it is when children move from the area as they are in their droves at present but we must try to get new young people in to enjoy what we have on offer.

Woodsmoke

Darren has been working hard giving Woodsmoke a new look, he is trying also to get away from it being a list of dates as you all have access to the website and should have had a District Calendar, if not ask for one. I know of at least one Group that prints off copies and leaves them around for parents to read, we have over the years worked hard on improving communication, the website is great, section minutes come to you by email and hard copy, and there shouldn't be anyone that says they don't know what is going on. If, as one leader said recently, you still don't get Woodsmoke, PLEASE let Darren know and he will put you on the email list or ask your GSL who will make sure you get a copy. Please give Darren some feedback on the new look. Thank you Darren for the time and effort you are putting in to produce our "new look".

Fight Cancer

London Marathon

This year Mark Beerling is running in the London Marathon and raising money for Macmillan Cancer Support.

If you wish to help him reach his target of £1000 please donate using the link below:

Mark thanks you in advance

www.justgiving.com/markbeerling



10th/18th Quiz Night

10th/18th Scout Group Quiz Night

24th April, 7:30 p.m.

Dagenham & Redbridge FC small hall

£3 per head, Teams of 6-8

Bring your own food. Drinks must be purchased at the bar.

Please phone one of the following no later than the 17th April:

Pauline Wakeling
Loraine Hardiman

SCOUT SHOUT

Fun in the snow and First Aid for Scouts

Hello all, well what a funny few weeks of weather we have had. There I was struggling to clear my car of snow to get to work thinking how much fun today was going to be as I knew I wouldn't actually make it in, so the next few hours or so included snowball fights with neighbours, family and random people/cars going past and from what I have heard many many many of you had similar experiences. I hope you enjoyed it as much as I did and to those who made it to work well done to you.

We had the Mark Sutton in January, a big thank you to all the Explorers/ Leaders and St. John who gave up their Saturday to help run the event, thanks also to the Scouts who turned up, I hope you all came away having learnt some new skills.

I am still waiting for programmes of what your Troops are up to in the coming few months/year. I currently only



Richard Blunden is the ADC (Scouts)

have 2 Troop's information.

As you would have read from the minutes we are having a first aid training day in March (21st) at the 21st B&D HQ for Scouts. Full details and cost (a few pounds) will be out shortly, however some numbers would be a help before the March SL meeting to help with the organising, please email or ring me with your numbers so I can pass them on to the organisers. This may be opened to older Cubs depending on Scout numbers so please have some on standby just in case. If this is a success we may put on another training day later in the year.

Pioneering day is in April, details will be at the March SL meeting and online.

Treasurer's Tidbits

The latest 'treasury' report

Just to confirm that this year's membership fee remains at £30 per head and payment should reach me by **28th March 2009**.



Roger Scowen is the District Treasurer

CUB CHIT CHAT

Still alive to tell the tale after being 'poisoned'!

Hi all you Cubby people, I hope you are all well. Only one event for February - Founder's Day at St. Cedd's. Full report next time.

The Handcraft Competition is on Saturday 7th March, viewing is from 1 p.m. Certificates at 1:30 p.m. All exhibits to be dropped off on Friday 6th March between 8 and 9:30 p.m. at St. Mary's Church Hall, Grafton Road.

If you need to contact me please could you call my mobile
The reason for this is my mum is very forgetful and I don't always get messages and you are likely to get a return call from her.

Swimming Gala

Rosemary Oakwell (ADC Cubs)



Rosemary Oakwell is the ADC (Cubs)

Akela's Antics

Haven't been up to much lately, no putting the 'out' in Scouting. However I did risk being poisoned by several Patrols that took part in the Scout's Mark Sutton Competition. T Bag and I were asked to judge the cooking base. Most Patrols had chicken, fish, rice, noodles and vegetables. The way the food was cooked varied a great deal. T and I survived and we hope we will be asked to risk it next year.

As you know we had to cancel the Swimming Gala. However we do need the following for the County Swimming Gala on the 14th March 2009:

Cubs & Scouts: Backstroke, Breaststroke, Freestyle in each of the following age groups: under 9½, over 9½, under 12, over 12

Explorers: backstroke, breaststroke, butterfly, freestyle, all in the age group: under 18

If you have any Cubs, Scouts or Explorers that would like to swim, please let me know as soon as possible.

Showstoppers

Kenneth More Theatre, Ilford

Wednesday 29th April to
Saturday 2nd May 2009

Performances: 7:30 p.m. and Saturday Matinee 2:30 p.m.

Tickets: £7.50 children and Senior Citizens, £10 Adults

Tickets available from 4th March at Kenneth More Theatre, 0208 553 4466

Appeal for Back Stage Support

We would like to hear from you if you can help with sewing, costume/ wardrobe, dressing room, make-up, painting, front of house, transport, publicity, advertising.

Note: Stage crew team must be available for the full show week duration 27th April to 2nd May, which includes rehearsals and 5 performances (CRB will be taken up where applicable)

Should you have any queries please contact: Mike Hayward (02085275435) or Peter Ford (02085246723) [Scouts] or Sue Handley (02085212671) [Guides]

Booking form available on the GLNE website:

www.glnescouts.org.uk/gangshow/

Take a hike

Chase Walk 2009

Cannock Chase
21st March 2009
www.chasewalk.fsnet.co.uk

Four Inns Walk 2009

Peak District
4th April 2009
www.fourinns.org.uk

Apex Overnight Challenge

Sherwood Pines Forest Park, Nottinghamshire
18th - 19th April 2009
www.apexchallenge.co.uk

Pike View Hike

Bolton
24th - 26th April 2009
www.pikeviewhike.co.uk

Adult Pike View Hike

Bolton
2nd - 4th October 2009
www.pikeviewhike.co.uk

Apex Extreme

Ilkley Moor, West Yorkshire
2nd - 4th October 2009
www.apexchallenge.co.uk



Flying Days

Peter Seddon (Deputy County Commissioner)

As promised I have managed to secure some more flying dates from the Scout Flying Club.

17th May
14th June
19th July

All flights will take place at Stapleford Airdrome and will be in a 6 seater, twin engined aircraft.

It is possible to do multiple flights in a day if we get the numbers. Times of the flights will be issued once the aircraft slot is booked following submission of the numbers of participants.

Please could you circulate the details and let me have your numbers as soon as possible. Please bear in mind that there is a 1 month cut off before the flight date so if you can let me have your numbers when they come in it would be appreciated.

There is a certain amount of paperwork to be filled out for this event and I will forward it on for completion nearer the time.

Last years price was £27 per person, at this stage I can't guarantee that this will remain the same but if I hear to the contrary I will let you know.



BEAVER BITS

Hunt down those Easter eggs

Hi to all, I hope every Beaver has done something for the District Beaver Handcraft Competition in March, it's so good to see all of their hard work in doing all the exhibits and to get a nice certificate at the end. I hope to see some of the Beavers from all the Groups there with parents on the 7th March.

To all Beavers in our District, I hope you all have a sweet tooth for our an-

Ron Pringle is the ADC (Beavers)



nual Easter Egg Hunt, which is at Hargreaves at the end of March. Please bring a packed lunch and wear your Scout scarf, and to all leaders, please bring a game to play outside (or inside if weather is a bit wet). £3 per beaver, £1 per leader, see you all there.

Training Thoughts

We can only train people if they are there

Recently we have run modules 1 & 3 on the basis of "if you can make it - come along". Unfortunately, on a couple of occasions, no-one turned up yet all the gear has to be set up in advance. To enable the module to be run:

FROM NOW ON I WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING THAT YOU ARE ATTENDING - PLEASE BOOK YOUR PLACE BY PHONE OR BY E-MAIL

There may be an opportunity of running modules 8, 9 and 11 on Sunday 9th March in Newham. If you are interested please contact me and I will ensure that you are advised if the event goes ahead.

Chris Poole is the Local Training Manager



I look forward to hearing from you!!

First Response - 29th March - still places available - if you have already booked your place - please confirm you are still available.

01 April 2009 Module 1
17th B&D HQ 8:00 p.m.

03 June 2009 Module 3
Venue to be advised

09 September 2009 Module 1
Venue to be advised

BEAVERING AWAY

Snow, noodles and sticky glue

Hello everyone, I hope you have all recovered from our strange bout of snow. What fun it was. Emily and Darren made a snowman and would you believe a snow dog! Not sure who the biggest kid is really.

During February our Beaver Scouts had a brilliant time learning about the Chinese New Year. We made masks and enjoyed some noodles and other delicacies .

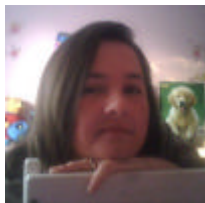


We've been busy 'beavering away' preparing for the forthcoming Hand-craft Competition, which is coming up in March. Not too much mess so far! I am really looking forward to the



BEAVERING AWAY

Leigh
Bradford is a
DBSL



Leader's entry this year. Yum - home made sweets. Nicola made some delicious ones for our last Christmas Beaver Scout meeting and they were extremely moorish. Looking forward to those again!

Ron, Mandy and I are beginning to visit your Colonies to see how you are all getting on and also to join in with the fun. I went to see the 12th Barking & Dagenham not so long ago and had a great time playing some games with the Beavers and Cubs. I look forward to seeing you soon.

Now that Spring is finally creeping in (isn't it lovely to see the days getting a little longer) I am looking forward to getting out and about with my Beaver Scouts. They are all looking forward to the Easter Egg Hunt. I love to see their little faces searching for those lucky golf balls. Lots of mud and water!

Why don't you join me in sending in some information of what you have been getting up to with your Beaver Scouts. It would be great to hear from you. That's about it from me for this month. As always I hope to see you out and about in the District. Keep Beaver-ing Away!

Water Activity Day

DOCKLANDS COUNTY WATER ACTIVITY DAY Sunday 17th May 2009

The County have booked the Scouts Docklands Project Lord Amory in the East London Docks for a day of mixed water activities with a back drop of Canary Wharf.

Who is eligible to attend?

The activities are open to Cubs, Scouts, Explorers, Network and leaders and can be booked either as Groups, Districts or individuals if over 13 years of age. First come first served for places.

Activities

The water sessions (one in the morning and one in the afternoon) comprise of rowing, dinghy sailing, kayaking and open canoeing. They will try to allow people to do a session of each

When

Sunday 17th May 2009 from 9:30 in the morning with activities starting at 10:00 and finishing at 4:30 in the afternoon with a break for lunch.

Cost

The day of activities is **£16 per head** with full instruction and equipment pro-

vided, including buoyancy aids hats etc. Which for a days activity is exceptional value for money. But participants will need to bring 2 changes of clothing (one for the morning and one for the afternoon session) own packed, money for tuck shop where hot and cold drinks etc are available. There are also changing and shower facilities at the centre.

How

Travel by own means of transport to Docklands address below.

Where

HQTS Lord Amory
Dollar Bay
631 Manchester road
London
E14 3NU

and is easily found on Google, Multimap or even the A-Z. A map can also be found on the DSP website

www.lordamory.org

Booking

To secure your place deposits of £8 should be sent to the undersigned no later than April 2009.

If you have any questions on the above, please do not hesitate to contact either: - Andy Jones or Trevor Jones or Vince Turner.

Andy Jones (GLNE ACC Activities)
Trevor Jones (GLNE Water Adviser)
Vince Turner (GLNE Water Adviser)

www.glnescouts.org.uk/activities/

Scouting in GLNE

10th World Jamboree Reunion

Please can you help us to trace some "Scouts" who attended the above Jamboree. We are a small group of "Old Scouts" aged between 64 and 67 years who attended the above Jamboree in July 1959. We are trying to trace all the Scouts who attended this Jamboree. Please circulate this request via email, word of mouth etc. as we are planning a reunion sometime in July this year to mark the 50 years anniversary of this very special Jamboree.

'Gambia' Quiz Night

Saturday 7th March 2009 at Trinity United Reformed Church, Station Road, Upminster, 7:30 p.m. in aid of the Dragon Explorer Scouts Community Project and Camp in The Gambia, Summer 2009.

Teams of 6-10 people, bring your own drinks. Prizes to be won! Ploughman's lunch provided, £7.50 per person

Climbing Dates

Details for climbing wall courses in April/March 2009 are now available online.

1st Leyton Gang Show

Full details available at:

<http://stageservices.art.officelive.com/leytongang09.aspx>

Vacancies

GLNE currently have the following positions that need to be filled in the County Team:

- ACC (Explorer Scouts)
- County Training Administrator
- Child Protection Awareness Co-ordinator
- District Commissioner - Epping Forest South
- District Commissioner - Romford

If you feel that you are able to fulfil one of these positions, or know someone who can, please take the time to read the Role Descriptions and to contact the CC to discuss the matter further.

Van emission charge plan halted

The Mayor of London has announced the scrapping of the proposed extension to the low emission zone policy, which would have had potentially damaging effects on numerous Group minibuses throughout Scouting and other charities and businesses. If implemented this policy would have led to very costly alterations to Group minibuses and the potential scrapping of many, so this is good news. The CC is aware that a number of individuals lobbied hard on this issue and he is pleased that everyone has been listened to and positive action taken as a result.

The full versions of these articles and all the related information can be found online at the County website.

www.glnescouts.org.uk/

News from the Net

Information and resources online

Woodsmoke has its own mailing list, if you wish to receive Woodsmoke by email (which you will normally get the day after the deadline) please email me a suitable, valid, email address that I can add to the distribution list. The following email addresses are no longer valid, could you please send me an updated valid one if you recognise an old one of yours:



used with permission from Rich Diesslin,
www.the-cartoonist.com



Darren Dowling is the District Webmaster

A guide to www.barking-dagenham-scouts.org.uk

/minutes/

Minutes of District meetings

/directory/

District Directory, containing contact details for all leaders in the District.

Username and passwords for all the private areas on the website can be obtained by contacting me

/photos/

Over 10 000 photos of District events, past and present

/reports/

Reports of Group, District, County and National events

/forum/

'Chat' forum and message board. Talk to leaders and people within Scouting and share ideas or just have fun chatting with each other.

Words from the Wood

News and information from Thriftwood Campsite

As we have now officially retired from full time employment as your Warden/Manager/Shop Manager/Bookings Secretary etc. of Thriftwood Memorial Scout Campsite, I would like to thank all those Leaders, Helpers and Supporters who helped Mary and I develop the Site to what it has become today. Not however forgetting those earlier pioneers who 24 years earlier had dug, cleared, levelled sites, and roads with pick and shovel and constructed buildings and even created Sapper Lake. This platform enabled me to implement a vision I had had from early days, of a campsite and activity centre that would enable young people to enjoy the surroundings, have fun, and develop within themselves.

Although I have always been passionate about the principles of Scouting & Guiding, I have also seen Thriftwood as a place for all young people to appreciate the great outdoors and what it has to offer. My 26 years at Thriftwood has taught me an awful lot and above all; respect for leaders and young people, trees, birds, grass, water, soil, drainage, toilets, roads, adventurous activities, humility, and commitment.

Thanks again for allowing us the privilege of being your 'Warden' and 'Mrs Warden'.

Bill & Mary Hindley



Bill Hindley was the Warden

Pedal Car Olympics

The results of the 2009 Pedal Car Olympics are now available on the website. Booking is now open for the 2010 Olympics, 8-10 January 2010.

Ski Hi Walk

The Ski Hi Walk is a 14 metre beam suspended 6 metres above ground. Participants are belayed from the ground and have to walk along its length. Dancing, hopping, leap of faith and beam hugging are all part of the walk.

Brochure

The 2009 brochure is available for download on the website.

TLC 2009

Friday 23rd October to Sunday 25th October 2009. Even more events - hot tubs, massages, activities, bar, music and evening entertainment.

Campfire with Carols 2009

Saturday 12th December at 3 p.m. Burgers, Hot Dogs etc. Mince pies & Mulled Wine will be on sale before and afterwards

www.thriftwood.org.uk/

Environment Day at the 1st

Tree Planting & Environment Day at the 1st

We would like to invite all Cubs, Scouts, Networkers and Leaders to join the 1st B&D on the 5th April 2009 for a tree planting and environment day. The event will run from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. and you are welcome any-time between these times. We would be grateful if Groups could bring along some spades and if it's not too much to ask a wheelbarrow per Group would be a great help. We will provide tea, coffee and cold drinks (and some biscuits if the budget runs to it!). Bring your own lunch with you. At the moment our kitchen facilities are a bit limited, we have a kettle and microwave oven! We will also provide some indoor activities linked to environmental issues.

The 1st have recently acquired their own premises. The building is a Portakabin used as a site office for the first phase of the Barking Reach development. Phase two is now in progress and new offices have been built for this. The area surrounding the building is currently overgrown and derelict land. We plan to turn this into an 'Oasis in the Marshes', well something along those lines. The first stage of this is to plant a hedgerow around the perimeter fence. We would also like to dig out a pond as there is a lot of wild-

life that requires water in the area. Depending how the planting goes, we may start on the pond as well. Once the area is established Groups in the district will be very welcome to use the area for nature studies.

The new premises can be a bit difficult to find. They are located in Blessing Way. Blessing Way can be found by turning at the Ship and Shovel on the A13. Continue through the temporary width restrictions. Take the left at the bottom of the hill, this is Choats Road, then take the first right into Great Fleete Way and turn left into Blessing Way, go right to the gate at the end of the road (there is a link to a map below). If you are coming on public transport, take the 369 bus to the end of the route and Blessing Way is a short walk.

We thought the day could count towards the Environment Partnership badge. It certainly fits into the criteria. Please email me with a rough idea of numbers, so we know how much tea, coffee etc. we need to supply. We look forward to welcoming you to our new home.

Julie (Akela of 1st B&D)



www.multimap.com/s/Ss1iERBU

Mark Sutton

Richard Blunden (ADC Scouts)



On a coldish day in January, 9 Patrols, lots and lots of leaders and some St. John personnel descended on St. Mary's church hall for our annual Mark Sutton Competition.

Troops from 1st, 4th, 6th, 7th, 9th, 10th/18th, 11th, 16th & 19th attended. Some Groups joined forces with another to make up a composite Patrol. It was nice to see you all there and thank you for attending. Hopefully next year the missing Troops will make it.

For those who do not know, at the Mark Sutton we have bases that are marked out of 100. These bases are: Inspection, First Aid, Mapping, Compass, Knots, Cooking and a Quiz. Their behaviour throughout the day is also watched and marks are taken away if their behaviour deems it and this year all Patrols behaved impeccably, a credit to their Troops.

A big thank you to the leaders for running the bases, the day can't work without your help. We had St. John Ambulance personnel running the first aid under the watchful eyes of Steve & Suzanne, from all accounts it went well, please bring all comments/ideas/ moans & groans to the march SL meeting for the de-brief.

A big well done to the composite Patrol of the 4th/11th for winning the competition, closely followed by the 6th with the 10th/18th coming third. Well done to the top 3 and also to the rest of the Patrols, the Mark Sutton is also about learning so I hope you all came away knowing something you didn't know before, even if it was just the colour of the Teletubbies custard (see quiz).

Patrol	Inspection	First Aid	Mapping	Knots	Cooking	Quiz	Compass	Total	Position
4th/11th Bulldogs	85.0	59.0	74.0	43.0	85.0	77.5	65.0	488.5	1st
6th Ravens	85.0	64.0	68.0	51.0	85.0	66.5	58.0	477.5	2nd
10th/18th Ravens	90.0	44.0	70.0	53.0	93.0	46.0	45.0	441.0	3rd
19th Bulldogs	60.0	37.0	64.0	31.0	80.0	51.5	53.0	376.5	4th
16th Falcons	90.0	45.0	36.0	23.0	89.0	47.0	41.0	371.0	5th
9th/7th Wolves	85.0	46.0	20.0	38.0	91.0	43.5	44.0	367.5	6th
1st Kingfishers	68.0	37.5	35.0	21.0	92.0	62.5	41.0	357.0	7th