

Columbus ESU invade Thriftwood

This February saw the first Explorer camp of 2015. Eight of our young members, ventured off to Thriftwood, for a non-leader passport camp. The camp was planned and carried out, completely by the explorers along with Rob McNaughton, who was instrumental in its success. The equipment was taken to and from camp, and set up by Rob and the explorers, to which we owe him a big thank you.



So.... The camp.....

Friday night saw horrendous rain and fairly high winds, and I remember sitting in the curry house, thinking about the Explorers, hoping they had got undercover and were warm and dry!

As agreed with the Explorers, I arrived at 8am on Saturday morning, to spend a little time with them and get to know them a bit better away from the hall, I arrived to find them up and halfway through brekky, not snoring their heads off, as I sort of expected, we

will have to work a little with them on quantities, as they had enough grub for a district camp, and sausages for a small pioneering project. Needless to say they fed me up nicely.

They had a fairly tight programme laid out, for the weekend, so after washing up they set about doing scouty stuff... the small pioneering project was decided by me, a rotary washing line, from staves and sisal, considering they only had an hour or so to play with and had never made one they didn't do a bad job.

After just one hour, you could see the leaders emerging, the ones whom worked well under direction from their peers, and the couple who need a little work. All in all, a very productive morning with the Explorers, and a worthwhile trip to Thriftwood. After preparing lunch, cheese, ham and Jam sandwiches, the young members set off on their hike



I was invited but obviously declined, as I didn't want to ruin the fun! Two and a half hours later and after a hike of approximately 10k, they returned, still smiling, no moans or injuries, getting on with each other, and ready for laser tag in the woods at dusk.

At this point I bid our explorers farewell and made for home, having only worked with these kids for a very short time (since January) one thing I have already learned, we have a first class group of young members, these eight, six of which are 15½ or younger are a fantastic grounding, in which to build the section, and with more coming through to explorers regularly, hopefully we can reinvent our section and put Barking and Dagenham at the forefront of youth led scouting, in GLNE. There is a lot of work to do, but we are confident, it is achievable and within reach, I would urge any group that are holding on to young members, SEND THEM ALONG, they are going to have a great time.....

Dick (Explorer Scout Leader: ColumbusESU)

If you need to contact us over anything, please feel free Columbus.esu@outlook.com we will be happy to help.

Explorer Camp

On Friday the 13th February, eight of us Explorers went to Thriftwood Campsite for a weekend camp.

When we arrived our first task was to set up the camp, by putting the tents and dining area up. We then got the fire going as quickly as we could because the skies were rapidly turning a deep dark grey. We cooked hot dogs for tea, which were soon devoured as we were quite hungry. Almost as soon as we had finished, it started to bucket it down and so we quickly grabbed everything and ran into the dining tent.

It rained all night long, so we had no choice, but to sing our campfire songs without a campfire, inside a tent!

On Saturday morning we awoke to a very soggy ground, but that didn't stop our fun. After a hearty breakfast Richard arrived, and we soon got together to work on pioneering projects. After this we went on a hike, which we had to abandon after we got a little lost. (Don't go there). When we got back to base it was time for laser tag, which was great fun.

Emily Bradford - a member of Columbus ESU



He's Behind You . . . Oh No He Isn't

On Friday the 30th of January, members of 15th Barking and Dagenham Beavers, Cubs and Scouts went to see an astounding pantomime performance of the classic **Cinderella** by the Dragon Theatre in Gants Hill.

The atmosphere from the start put glorious smiles on the children's faces. Whether it was the terribly funny puns, ridiculous costumes or the hilarious bursts in to song and the most ridiculous of dances, the children were bound to be laughing and giggling even the leaders too.

The way in which the pantomime was performed was amazing and always kept the children's attention. One of the great things about this pantomime was that they changed the storyline slightly to contain a Sci-Fi robot and an array of characters that wouldn't traditionally be there. But this unlocked endless potential for more laughs and giggles from the children.

Overall it was a great experience and I wouldn't hesitate to take the children to see another performance from them.

Olive Howard, BSL 15th B&D

The 8th also went to the Pantomime, they went to Ripple Hall to see Barking MAD's production of '**Mother Goose**', a great night out and only one Beaver was sick!

Beaver Bits



Hello everyone. Is it really March already? What happened to February? I hope that you've all had a good month and were wined and dined by your loved ones on Valentine's Day. Let's just say that Mr Dowling had to suddenly rush out on the day with the toddler in tow, to buy a card and pressie. Bless him.

Anyway, February is always a quiet month, so not much has happened in the Beaver section really. We celebrated our great founder, Robert Baden Powell's birthday on Sunday the 22nd with a District Service at St Cedds. It was lovely to see all of the sections coming together to celebrate the life of such a brilliant man. Even the horrible rain couldn't keep us away. While we were there we saw some awards being given out by our DC, Andy. Congratulations to each and every one of you who received awards. Very well deserved.

Down at the 9th we have been busy making our Handcraft items by creating lots of mess, getting glued together and producing some very interesting exhibits. Don't forget that the drop off for models etc is on Friday the 6th March at the 9th HQ, between 8pm and 9:30pm. Please make sure that all exhibits are labelled correctly. The competition doors open at 1pm on the 7th March and presentations will be at 1:30pm. Full uniform for everyone please. Many thanks.

We have also been busy enjoying some yummy pancakes and celebrated Shrove Tuesday by decorating and of course tasting some.

The 15th have been having a great time since their return after Christmas. There is a report from them about their time out and about at a Pantomime on page 2:

It's great to see what you are all getting up to. Please do keep those reports coming in. That's about it for now. Please can you let me have your Egg Hunt numbers by then if possible.

See you all soon. Keep Beavering away!

Honest Leigh, ADC Beaver Scouts



Scout Shout

The Mark Sutton Competition was once again a great success. Thanks to Pauline Wakeling for stepping to run the event this year. Also thanks to the leaders who gave up their time to run bases on the day.

Well done to the **1st Tigers** for winning followed closely by the **10/18th Black Panthers** and in 3rd place were the **1st Lions**.

The Explorers also put a team in this year, although they won it technically didn't count well done to them and also to Pat and Dick for helping them prepare.

Groups that took part were the 1st, 6th, 9th & 10/18th. It would be nice to see a few more groups take part in the future.

Leaders, we can debrief at our next meeting in May. Thanks, Russell

Cub Capers

Hi All you cubby people,

First of all I must apologise as due to family health issues, we have missed two County events, the scooter rally and the 10 times walk across the Thames.

Apart from these events the cub section has not been very active in the past couple of months, but as the warmer weather and lighter nights come along we will be living up just like the flowers in my garden.

On the weekend of 7th March saw the Cubs using their handcraft skills. We have 5-a-side, sports, St Georges day parade and Cyclist Badge coming up, to name just a few.

Well done to all who attended our Founders Day service, a nice little service.

We have appointed three District Cub Scout Leaders and they are Mel Gower from the 1st, Paul Robinson from the 6th and Sue Fraser from the 10/18th. We will be visiting you soon so if you haven't already given me your meeting times for cubs can you please do so as soon as possible.

That's it from me, take care

Chilly Akela Rosie.

Akela's Antics

After another 3 hour visit to the hospital, I am pleased to say Ken is on the mend. He still needs some treatment but everything looks OK. The hardest part is trying to get him to rest and not talk.

I have another great nephew Bobby born on 9th February. We don't seem to have many girls in our family but with the boys increasing their numbers I can live in the hope that they will play football for West Ham and England.

MULTI-MODULE TRAINING COURSE

Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th March 2015 at Hargreaves Campsite.

This is a two day course with both days starting at 9 o'clock am. Over the two days we will be covering modules 12a, 12b, 19, 13, 8, 9, 14, 15 & 11.

This training course will cost £10 this covers all the learning materials and lunch for both days. You can either pay online or select more payment options and choose pay at event. This is more than just a training event it is a chance to meet & network with other new leaders across the County.

GLNE Basic Climbing Wall Course



A 4 day climbing wall course for 2015 is being run leading to you being authorised to take Youth Members Climbing on walls and other man-made structures.

The course takes place at Hargreaves on 18th and 19th April and 25th and 26th April.

Cost £60.

Further details see www.glne-scouts.org.uk for more information

Jill's Jottings



At a recent Beaver Leaders meeting it was suggested that a booklet is put together of ideal places for trips for all ages.

If anyone has any details of trips you have done either locally or at a small distance please send as many details as you can to either myself or Leigh and we will pass them on to go into the booklet which will then be available to all of you. Thanks

Dates

April

4th: Cub Cyclist Badge

11th/12th April: Explorers Climbing Camp

May

9th: Beaver Cyclist badge

16th: 5 a side

June

6th: Sports Eastbrook School

12th-14th: Umbrella Camp @ Chigwell Row

15th: AGM @ Hargreaves

July

11th July Connect 4.

St George's Day

The service is at **St Albans** again this year. **26th April at 3.00**. Parade details to follow.

Training

Module 3 25th March 7.00-7.30 17th HQ Wilmington Gdns

Module 16 Thursday 23rd April 7.00 for 7.30 17th HQ Wilmington Gdns

Module 1 20th May 7.00-7.30 17th HQ Wilmington Gdns

Umbrella Camp 12th-14th June Book with Rose

June 28th: Module 5,6,7.

4th July: 1st Response (please book in advance with Steve Wakeling 07967134252)

8th July: Module 3

Jill

County Safeguarding Course:

I've just had confirmation that the July session will be on **Tuesday 7th July** at **Kingsland Hall, Station Lane, Harold Wood. 7.15 - 9.30pm**

Dodd's Deliberations

Spring is just around the corner, I know some of you are already getting out and about. I understand it's a bumper packed Woodsmoke this month so I will keep my ramblings short.

It was great to see lots of groups attend Founders Day, and a privilege to award Long Service Awards totally 185 years, Jack Petchey awards, and a Queens Scout Award. Well done to everyone, you are all a credit to the District. For those of you that attended may have noticed a number of us wearing the new District Scarf. Hopefully you will see this more over the coming months as it gets rolled out to all the District team, and Scout Active Support. If you were wondering about the colours, then look no further than our District badge.

Our next big event together is **St Georges Day Parade** on 26th April. I look forward to seeing you all there.

Dodds



Compass update

DBS Checks / New Appointments

Although compass is still down, DBS Checks are back. We are now receiving regular emails from Gilwell reminding us of who's DBS has expired. If this is the case we will let you know and your GSL can renew them online. There have been a few instances where those who updated their DBS late last summer have been hi-lighted as not having a current DBS. In those instance please let Dodds know, and he will inform Gilwell.

For all new members of your group there is a process for this too. Please complete an Adult Information Form (Available to download from Scouts.org.uk in the member resources) and email this, or drop this off to Jill. We will then arrange for their DBS to be completed.

Please remember that all those working with young people should have an up to date DBS.

Waltham Forest Scouts and Guides

Present

GANG SHOW

2015

THURSDAY 16TH to SATURDAY 18TH APRIL

Chingford Assembly Hall, Chingford, E4 7EN

NOW WITH TIER SEATING

PERFORMANCES 7.30PM &
SATURDAY MATINEE AT 2.30PM



FOR TICKETS: 07538314415

www.wfgangshow.org.uk



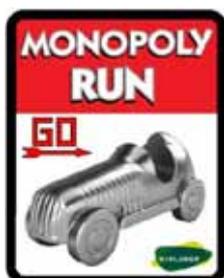


Dear Explorer Scouts and Leaders

You are invited to attend the District Explorer Scout "Monopoly Run", on **Saturday 14th March 2015**, starting from the hall. Explorers will need to arrive **at 08.00am on the Saturday morning** to book in. **At 09.00am**, the team photo is taken and information is given out, each team will then leave for London



The idea of the day will be for your team to travel around London on the Tube, Train, Bus or the DLR and to visit as many places on our own Special Monopoly board. The day will replicate the game as near as possible, passing Go and then making your way round the board, taking a chance or community chest card at an agreed location.



Your team will need to be photographed with its team poster at each location to gain points to win the day. A leadership team will be based in a central London location all day and each team will need to check in with them.

Once you have travelled as far as you can and visited as many locations as possible, it will be time to head back to the hall for 6.30pm.

We will download the monopoly evidence on Tuesday, and the winner will be announced then, there may even be a prize!

This is a free event, so all you have to do is show up!

All Explorers will need to purchase their own one day travel card or use their Oyster Card. And bring enough pocket money for MACCERS, BK, KFC, KEBAB OR CHISH AND FIPS

Dick Catchpole

District Explorer Scout leader Columbus ESU

Mobile: 07956 842714 Email: columbusESU@outlook.com



----- Please cut here and return to your leader ASAP -----

I would like my son / daughter _____ to attend the District Monopoly Run event on Saturday 14th March and I understand they are responsible for their own travel and lunch costs

Signed: _____ Name: _____

Last call for this years Waltham Walk



WALTHAM WALK COMPETITION

16th to 17th May 2015

Calling all Scouts and Explorers!

The Waltham Walk is in its 46th year and is a challenge expedition open to all youth organisations.

You will hike around the Essex countryside over 2 days; take part in 'incidents' involving crossing rivers, assault courses, and other initiative tests; camp overnight and cook your own meals. There are many trophies to be competed for, including the WW Boot, cups and shields.

We will also be running practice hikes, kit checks, & cooking nights to make sure you are ready.

The Mini-Trek for Scouts (12-14 years old)

Starting at Wickham Bishops you will hike 8 miles to the overnight camp at Danbury. Sunday you will hike the final 8 miles to the finish at East Hanningfield Village Hall. Teams carry 'day sacks' only. (All other kit will be transported by vehicle)

The Main Event for Explorers (14-18 years old)

Again starting at Wickham Bishops you will hike 17 miles between checkpoints, carrying all equipment needed for the weekend. After camping overnight at Danbury, you will hike the final 8 miles to the finish at East Hanningfield Village Hall.

Teams entered will be a minimum of 3, to a maximum of 4 per team.

Cost of the competition is £20

This will include entry fee, travel to and from the venue, food for your overnight meal and breakfast. Just bring a packed lunch and your personal kit.

Come and join our adventure!
We can't wait to meet you!

Patrick, Dick and Sean:

Columbus Explorers Unit

Columbus.ESU@outlook.com

Do you ever find yourself in need of another pair of hands in an emergency?

The Scout Active Support (SAS) members are willing to stand in for your leaders in a time of difficulty.

Call Malcolm or Sue Beerling on **01708 459912**.

This can not be a permanent arrangement, but could be of help in case of long term sickness, term-time holidays, etc.

Are you a 'Social Media' Guru?

Can you maintain our District Facebook page, post items and remove out dated stuff? Then you might just be the person Dodds needs. Message him, email him or be old fashioned and give him a call

Facebook and Website

Don't forget to look at

www.barking-dagenham-scouts.org.uk This has various links including the latest NAN forms, District minutes, and Woodsmoke.



We also have two new facebook pages. For Explorers "Columbus ESU (Barking and Dagenham)", and for this year's trip to Denmark "Dane Camp 2015". This where the latest news is.

The power of social media can be massive. Our latest post in "Barking & Dagenham Scout District" asking everyone to be extra vigilant following attempted child abduction in the area has reached 24,994 people so far. Helping others stay safe.

Articles for the **April 2015** edition of
Woodsmoke should be in by the
24th March at the latest
Please let us know what your Group
has been up to,
with photos all the better.

If you think there is too much Explorer News in
this edition, play them at their own game and
send in **your** news.

Thanks Steve May - Editor

Please email: steveandjillmay87@hotmail.com