



Hornchurch District  
Scout Association  
www.hornchurchscouts.org.uk

# “Scouting About”

## **A Christmas visit to his family in Thailand enabled Jon Cable Troop Assistant with the 3rd. Cranham to visit the World Jamboree.**

Due to the recent worldwide bombing atrocities security was extremely tight the seaside site guarded by troops and even warships anchored offshore. Day visitors were all vetted beforehand through their Headquarters so the numbers allowed in were very small. Jon’s arrival in a diplomatic car resulted in him being granted V.I.P. status and was driven around the site by golf buggy. The British contingent had displays showing aspects of British life and even had a London taxi which proves that they do go south of the river!

There were some Brit Scouts from local areas including one from Thurrock who thought Jon had flown all the way to Thailand for the day .

The landscaped coastal site was well laid out with spotless facilities , souvenir shops and even a laundry service.

Due to security ,the campers were not allowed off site apart from organised excursions and alcohol and smoking were not allowed on site although nobody (even the adults) seemed to mind as they were all otherwise enjoying themselves.

### *Jon with a group of Thai Scouts*



### **Melvyn Gallagher 3rd. Cranham (Coopers’ Coborn)**

Feb’03  
Issue 31

Group Circulation:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Explorer Sct. Leader	<input type="checkbox"/>	Scout Leader
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cub Scout Leader	<input type="checkbox"/>	Beaver Scout Leader



# D.C.'s Discourse...

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It may be February, but a belated Happy New Year to one and all. 2002 was a very successful year, especially with the new programme launches and the launch of the two new older sections. However 2003 promises to be just as exciting. We have a lot to do, and only a short time to achieve it.

The census figures are still coming in, but congratulations to 2<sup>nd</sup> Cranham, 3<sup>rd</sup> Cranham, and 1<sup>st</sup> Elm Park who have all gone up as a group total. However it looks as though the District as a whole is down. Some of this can be offset by members 18 years and up now being registered on the County return, however there is still cause for concern.

To combat this I will be meeting with all GSL's in February and March to highlight their problems and to attempt to produce a Group Development Plan. Many group problems have been brewing now for some time, but I aim to try and take these all in hand and to do all that I can to solve them.

Scott Wilderspin and myself spent a day recently at the County's DC Conference working on a Development Plan for the District as a whole. This allowed us to review the district as a whole and to review the structures that we have in place. We shall be discussing these points with the whole team shortly to see what their feelings are.

It's been another busy time, with a vast array of different events and experiences. Some of the highlights;

- Camping with 2<sup>nd</sup> Elm Park and 1<sup>st</sup> Cranham at Gilwell Winter Camp on the first weekend in January (it was -7°C on Saturday Night!)
- Launch of the Upminster & Cranham Explorer Scout Unit (21 potential members turned up on the first night – not bad!)
- Chief Scout's Award Presentation at Gilwell Park (Well Done Glenn)
- The District Beaver Party & Cub Carol Service
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Cranham's Quiz Night & the chance to present some long service awards (and the chance to see Melvyn wearing a lovely bright yellow hawaiian shirt!)
- District Team Drink at The Optimist (even if Sumaiea did start a food fight ...)

The District Swimming Gala is fast approaching, so it would be nice to see representatives from each and every Group. Even if you can only get one or two young people interested please try and enter. The sense of achievement for young people when they win is well worth the effort. Also we are trying out Beaver events this year – please give this some consideration.

As a whole, the District has a vast array of events organised over the forthcoming year. It would be nice to see more groups represented at some of these. These events are organised to complement the programme that each section operates. Many of these events are run because we are told at District Meetings that they are wanted – so please, if we take the effort to run them try and take part.

As from next year the whole pattern of adult leader training is changing. Consequently this is the last real opportunity to complete Leadership One & Two. I would therefore encourage all those who are part way through training to complete as much of it now as they can. Sue Cruise can let you know the dates and pass on application forms.

Since the last edition of Scouting About I am pleased to announce that Charles Cox has agreed to become District Treasurer. Charles should be well known to many in this district as a leader with 8<sup>th</sup> Hornchurch, as well as a former DSL and ADC. Welcome Charles and thanks for agreeing to take on this vital role. I have also appointed Kath Jefferys as the new District Appointments Secretary. Kath has been Group Secretary of 2<sup>nd</sup> Elm Park for the last four years. All future CRB Forms and Appointment Forms should be sent to her with immediate effect.

Thank you once again for all that you all do for scouting in this district – let's make 2003 a year to remember!

**Yours in Scouting**  
**Dean Jefferys**  
**DC.**

# Joint Christmas Camp...

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## 2nd Elm Park / 2nd Upminster—Joint Christmas Camp

As a lot of you will be aware, the District Scout Team recently re opened 2nd Upminster Scout Troop after their Leaders all moved on. Andy, Grim and myself have all been there on a weekly basis and a Troop that started back with only about 10 boys is now 20 + strong.

At the first programme planning meeting we had for the Troop, we thought it would be a good idea to get the lads away for a weekend before the end of the year. But with the amount of time Grim and myself spend away with 2nd Elm Park, finding a free weekend proved to be very difficult. We had already booked a Christmas Camp in a building at Gilwell and so decided that we would make this a joint camp.

Now, I know a lot of Troops have this sort of camp at the end of November or early December and still have the cheek to call it Christmas Camp, well not us, we held the camp over the weekend of Friday 20th December - Sunday 22nd December ( now that's Christmas )

After frantically pushing the camp with the 2nd Upminster lads and going around forcing hands to fill in parental consent forms we had about 30 people there in total. Even though it was Gilwell, the building was excellent and the crew very helpful. The weekend saw the lads completing a couple of scavenger hunts, as well as taking part in archery, rifle shooting, peddle karts and inventing a game with a ball that made my arm hurt for days. The weekend also included the lads at various points causing chaos in each others rooms  
.....( Panda ) " your Elm Park lot have raided our room ", ( Iain Overall ) " the Upminster lot keep banging on the wall and keeping us awake "  
.....like they were trying to get to sleep! Other than the obvious little niggles there really was no problem between the two Troops and everyone got on well and enjoyed the weekend ( even the leaders )

I'd like to also take this opportunity to say that once again Grim's Christmas dinner was fantastic and considering that he was cooking for over 30 people, makes it even more impressive. THANKS GRIM !!

After successfully running a long weekend at Easter for the last three or four years, joint with 1st Elm Park and now a joint Christmas Camp with 2nd Upminster, I recommend that you all try joint camps ( as Jim Berry always says " if you're running something for 20, it takes little or no more effort to run it for 30 "

**STUART BARHAM**  
2nd Elm Park Scout Leader



# Colony Chat...

## **3rd Rainham Beaver Scout of the Year Award for 2002 is Sam Snelling .**

3rd Rainham Beavers are awarded points on the basis of 1 point for attending a Colony meeting with a possible second point if they are very good or helpful for that meeting. 2 points are given for attending a Colony event such as Church Parade or a Wellie Walk.

A wall chart is used to record each Beavers' progress throughout the calendar year and at the final meeting in December the Beaver with the most points is the winner - or as in last years' case there were double winners.

The trophy was donated by Betty Newall, who along with her late husband Ted, formed the 3rd Rainham Group way back in 1970. 3rd Rainham Beaver Colony was started in October 1999 by Peter and Wendy Allen. Peter was a Cub, Scout and Venture Scout at 3rd Rainham.

Sam will swim up to Cubs in March and Oak (BSL) and Ash (ABSL) wish him well and hope he carries on his achievements there.

The 2001 winners were James and Joel, in 2000 the winner was Patrick.

**Peter Allen.**

**Oak (DBSL)3rd Rainham Beaver Scout Colony**

## *Training*

**Initial Training –Sunday 23rd. February 2003**

**GLNE dates**

**Leadership One**

**BEAVER £60.00 B-CS24 15-16 March 2003 and 12-13 July 2003\***

**\* Plus a Residential Weekend**

**CUB £60.00 B-CS24 15-16 March 2003 and 5-6 July 2003\***

**\*Plus a Residential Weekend**

SV16 8-9 February 2003 CANCELLED LOOKING TO INCLUDE A TUTOR GROUP IN WITH LEADERSHIP 1 BEAVER/CUBS

**Residential Experience (part of Leadership 1) 17/18 May 2003**

**Essex**

BSL Leaders and Helpers Leadership One £99

BSL1-35 Part One - 5/6 th.July 2003

Part Two - 20/21st.September 2003

Closing date 31st.May 2003

**CUB Scout Leaders and Helpers Leadership One £99**

CSL1-43 Part One 14/15th.June 2003

Part Two 27/28th.September 2003

Closing date 10th.May 2003

Explorer Scout Leaders and Helpers Leadership One £99

ESL1-1 Part One -12/13th.July 2003

Part Two -4/5th.October 2003

Closing date 7th.June 2003

Intersectional Leadership 2 £61

L2-68 15/16th.March 2003 (Closing date-8 Feb 2003)

L2-69 21/22nd. June 2003 (Closing date-17 May 2003)

L2-70 1/2nd. November 2003 (Closing date-27 Sept.2003)

Forms from Sue Cruse –01708

# Troop Talk...

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Dear Scouters and Scouts of Hornchurch District.

Firstly let me wish you all (slightly belatedly) a very Happy New Year and welcome back to a fresh year of Scouting.

May I start by welcoming the following new leaders

- Andrew Gibson as ASL at 1<sup>st</sup> Cranham
- Lynsey as helper at 3<sup>rd</sup> Cranham
- Kevin Miller as ASL at 1<sup>st</sup> Upminster

My thanks to you for coming forward and volunteering to help. I know you will get a lot out of Scouting and the Scouts in your Troops will benefit greatly from your involvement.

Despite it only being the end of January we have already had one District Scout event. On Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January the **District Scout Chess Competition** was held at Wood Lane for the second time in its current reincarnation. My thanks go to Michael Suggate and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Elm Park leaders for running this event. Elsewhere in *Scouting About* there is a separate article but I just wanted to point out that numbers were up 50% on last year so you can see the varied nature of Scouting events is essential to appeal to all our members. The winner and three runners up will go forward to represent Hornchurch District at the County Chess Competition on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March. Good luck.

## **District Scout Events Coming Up**

The annual **Swimming Gala** takes place this year on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March at Hornchurch Pool. Have you thought about holding a special Troop night at your local swimming baths in order to pick your team? How easy is this for a Troop night program idea? I hope to see every Scout Troop represented and I'm sure the level of competition will be as high as ever. If you require any further details please contact either your GSL or myself.

**County Swimming Gala** – this will be held on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> March. The winners from the District Swimming Gala will be representing Hornchurch at this County event and as Hornchurch are defending champions (two years running) I know we will be trying our hardest to retain the Cup. For further details please contact Danny Aherne.

**District Scout Camp** – This will be held over the weekend of 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> May at Skreens Park. Full details will be handed out at the next District Scout Leaders meeting on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February. Please do come along and support this event. If last year's District Scout Camp is anything to go by the Scouts will have a great time.

**County Scout Five-a-side** will be held on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May and the **County Scout Camp** will be held on 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> June. Full details will be distributed when received.

June will see the very popular **District Hiking Weekend** run again at Skreens Park. The dates are 21<sup>st</sup> / 22<sup>nd</sup> June. More details in the next edition of *Scouting About*.

Continued on page 6



# Troop Talk cont...

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## St. Georges Day Parade

This annual event when EVERYONE in Hornchurch District renews his or her Scout Promise will be held on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April. Please could you encourage all of your Scouts and indeed leaders to attend because this is the one time that every member of Hornchurch District can see just how large the District is and also just how great we are. I look forward to seeing you there.

When I wrote my last article to you in November I mentioned the partial success story of the District Team re-opening 2<sup>nd</sup> Upminster. I would like to thank again Graham Crossman and Stuart Barham for all they have done at 2<sup>nd</sup> Upminster since September. To date whilst we have provisional offers to become assistant leaders we are still looking for that illusive SCOUT LEADER.

If you are a parent reading this article then please think very seriously about volunteering at your son's Scout Group. Scouting is purely voluntary and relies on volunteers. As I look around at many of the Scout Leaders in Hornchurch District they do NOT have children in the Troop – indeed many of them don't have children at all. So these volunteers are given their time to run sections for the benefit of **your sons**. Do you think now might be the time for you **the parents** to come forward and offer assistance. There are many many tasks that have to be done to keep a Scout Group functioning successfully and remember the old adage MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK. If you can get involved in any capacity then please contact your son's leader, your Group Scout Leader or myself.

To all of those leaders, instructors and parents who are doing so very much for Scouting in Hornchurch – THANK YOU

**Andy Rice**  
**ADC (Scouts)**

# *Come and Join Us...*

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## **Away Weekend**

This very popular event will not take place this year.

So it was thought we as a District would run our own I have therefore contacted Mill Rythe Holiday Camp at Hayling Island.

They have a tinsel and turkey 4 day break starting Friday 21st. November until Monday 24th. This is full board with entertainment throughout the weekend. All rooms are heated with tea making facilities and Sky T.V.

Total cost is just £105 per person availability is limited so all bookings to me no later than 14 February. FULL payment with booking. Sorry adults only single twin and double rooms available

## **HORNCHURCH DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL**

To all scouters and past members in the District. This year sees the forming of the District some seventy years ago, originally titled Upminster and later changed to Hornchurch.

I feel we cannot let this pass by without some sort of celebration so with this in mind we have booked Oaklodge at Thriftwood Scout Site Brentwood Essex, on Saturday 31st May, starting at 7-30 p.m. We have a superb buffet, both hot and cold, soft drinks teas and coffee and just a few beers and wines.

.This is a great way to meet old friends and perhaps make some new. We have many ideas for a fun evening and don't worry about driving you can always sleep over and if you have the stomach breakfast—will be served. A not to be missed evening. Early booking is advised; full payment of just £ 15 to me by end March will reserve a place for you. All partners are welcome.

Yours -in Scouting

**Jim Berry**

**Deputy District Commissioner**

## **Position Vacant - District Secretary**

Hornchurch District Scout Council require as soon as possible a District Secretary to take on general administrative tasks.

*Main Tasks:*

- To take the minutes at the five Executive Meetings and the AGM
- To collate the annual census information
- To deal with any general correspondence & pass on information
- And other tasks from time to time

*For further information or to discuss this further please contact Dean Jefferys on*

*01708 473733 or email [dgjefferys@hotmail.com](mailto:dgjefferys@hotmail.com)*



# Winter Camp...

## Winter Camp Gilwell Park 2003

Whose idea was it anyway, I'm sure we can blame one of our Scouts. It seemed like a good idea in September after all we had been before and survived. The letters went out and 10 Scouts wanted to come. We had visions of floating away after all the floods in December, still we are Scouters we'll cope. Then on the previous Wednesday the first Snow for a long time - still we are Scouters we'll cope. You know something is likely to go wrong when Scott announces 'Sorry Lin got to work until 4.00 on Friday' (you desperately want to get all your tents up in daylight) Slight panic but DC to the rescue, Dean was not working and agreed to help take some equipment to Gilwell.



Sarah and Scott looking very hot!

Weather by now improving, snow melting looking good. Paul Fix (I'm only a Cub Scout Leader and it's

not my group) also offers to help. Get to Gilwell and pitch up next to 2EP (they pitched up in the dark on the Thursday night) Jim was organising putting up the party tent (we now find out plastic gets very brittle and snaps but never mind) we'll survive we're Scouters.



Linda and Sarah washing up !

# Winter Camp cont...



Scouts arrive, parents do not appear alarmed it's only a bit cold. Breakfast on Saturday why can I not get any gas pressure on my cooker 'cos gas freezes or at least the blue bottle variety does and we don't know that, have to take a kettle down to the loo block to get some hot water to start off the cooking!! The day is fine Sharon (my new Cub Leader is visiting) Sarah Bacon and myself think it's about time we had some fun so go on the Simulator Ride now know why I don't like heights and roller coasters.

It's getting colder- Grim mentions it might be below freezing so make sure the Scouts are all wrapped up well when they go to bed. All Leaders have retired to the Bar, Scouts are in a heated 'Lid'. Does anyone feel the cold, no. That is until you go to bed and find out you are sleeping in a hike tent which



must be colder than an igloo - still we are Scouters we'll cope. Can't think why Jan and Keith (Cub Leaders) Eileen and Ken (Fellowship and Cub Leader) and Paul (Cub Leader) went home and wouldn't stay in a tent.



SUNDAY MORNING JUST SLEPT IN A TEMPERATURE OF -7 AND THAT WAS OFFICIAL.

Did the Scouts moan no, did the Leaders moan no.

Thanks to everyone who made the weekend so great, all our Scouts especially to Ben Massey and Perry Bignell who had never camped before and especially Perry who had never camped as a Cub either. To Scott, Andrew Gib-

son (first camp as a 1st Cranham Scout Leader), Paul, Sharon, Sarah, all the guys from 2EP and Jim (where would we be without him).

Are we going next year - watch this space !!!!!

**Linda Thorogood**  
**ADC Adult Support**