

"Scouting About"

8th.Hornchurch Cubs Are Squeaky Clean.

12 cubs from Mercury Cub Pack 8th.Hornchurch joined forces to clean - up Hornchurch from the graffiti on Sunday 26.6.05. Supervised by Ian Meadows and other leaders they were joined by Sargeant John Fish from Hornchurch Police Station with some of his colleagues. They started by painting over the graffiti by the side and back of the The Bathroom Shop and other places as part of a demonstration to those people who don't seem to care about Hornchurch and the way it looks. The idea originated from Sargeant John Fish who is tired of the negative attitude generated by the Community towards youngsters. The Mayor, Councillor Mylod dropped by to give the youngsters his support. The paint was generously supplied by B and Q and the rollers and brushes by McDonald's. It was done in no time at all which shows what can be done with a little bit of effort and willingness! This was just the start of Mercury's helping the community plans and the police were so pleased they have asked them to help on another project.

(There is a fuller article in the Romford Recorder for the week ending 1.7.05)



Some of the cubs with leaders and the Mayor ready to paint out the graffiti.



As you read this edition of 'Scouting About' we are now rapidly approaching the summer break and the excitement that summer camps and expeditions will offer. I for one am looking forward to joining 2nd Elm Park on their trip to Iceland over the first week of the school holidays. I hope that as many groups as possible will be using the opportunity to get away and to enjoy the great outdoors. (just don't forget those NAN Forms!)

I would also like to use this edition to thank everyone involved in the planning, preparation and implementation of both the District Hiking Weekend and District Cub Camp - especially to the two Event Leaders; Pete Seddon and Jim Berry.

Both weekends typified for me the best of what is happening in our District; over 30 Teams in the Hiking Weekend is a record in recent years and in such blistering heat all those who took part did exceptionally well and District Cub Camp saw over 100 young people and adults enjoying a vast array of activities at Thriftwood. Without exception all of the young people who took part in both events were a credit to their Sections and Groups and I was very proud of them all.

Can I pay special thanks to all the leaders and helpers who firstly allowed their young people to experience the great adventure of camping and hiking and secondly played such an active part over both weekends. Without you we could not have achieved all that we did.

A vast array of photographs were taken on both events and will soon find their way onto the District website - there are some classic moments captured on camera so please look out for them. Thanks once again for the efforts of all involved.

A number of our leaders have recently been honoured by the Chief Scout in recognition of the excellent services that they give to Scouting in this District. They are;

The Medal of Merit

Charles Cox	District Treasurer
Patricia Hipperson	BSL, 1 st Cranham and DBSL

The Chief Scout's Commendation for Good Service

Scott Wilderspin	SL, 1 st Cranham and DESC
Graham Crossman	ADC (Activities) and ASL, 2 nd Elm Park
Stuart Barham	SL, 2 nd Elm Park and DSL

All five individuals put an awful lot of time and effort into supporting both their respective Groups and the District as a whole, and therefore these awards are extremely well deserved.

I hope that you all enjoy the summer break and come back recharged and rejuvenated in September. In particular I would like to extend an invitation for all adult members of the District to join the happy band of us who spend the first weekend in September at the Gilwell Reunion. Please come along - you never know you might enjoy yourself.

Thanks again for all that you do for Scouting. Enjoy the summer!

Dean Jefferys
District Commissioner





St. George's Day

We had a record turn out at St George's Day, thanks to Donna and her Beavers from 8th Hornchurch for carrying the District Beaver Flag.

Congratulations to all the Colonies who have recently held Sleepovers - why they call it sleep I don't know cos' they don't!!!

All our Colonies are thriving and numbers continue to rise. We are all looking forward to getting out and about in the summer evenings.

The next event is Kubadoo in October - where we will have a fun filled day at Hargreaves (hopefully a dry one). The theme is Cowboys and Indians - with a fancy dress competition.

Enjoy your summer

**Linda Thorogood
ADC Beavers**

8th.Hornchurch "St.Andrews" take part in Record Breaking Event

In June we had a very exciting event as we took part in a world record attempt and joined in with a "Giant Sleepover" on the 18-19 June 2005. The event was a joint venture with Jill Daltrey of 2nd Elm Park Beavers and we had 25 Beavers and 2 Cubs taking part. We booked the Michael Mallison Scout Site in Woodford Green and fun was had by all. Our theme for the weekend was Pirates and our ship was called the "Hornelm". Everybody arrived for 1:00pm on the Saturday and the crew were shown to their bunks and then given the ship rules. The activities for the day were making cutlasses, a pirate hat and eye patch, a captain's sea telescope and tea-dyeing a treasure map. We also had the use of a bouncy castle and other outdoor games. Our dinner was a fine captain's meal for all; we then had a good old sing song around a camp fire before bed. At 10:00pm we called in our numbers for the giant sleepover and were told that we were well on our way to completing a world record.

On the Sunday we were up bright and early for crew breakfast and final activity before the ship arrived home for parent collection at 11:00am. The activity for this morning was a fantastic treasure hunt taking them to all different parts of the site in small groups with an adult captain leading them around. Finally at 10:45am time for presentations and closing ceremony.

We have since found out that the record number of children taking part in the Giant Sleepover around the UK was 33,000. So a big WELL DONE kids you are all record breakers.

Sue Cruse

8th. Hornchurch GSL





District Cub Camp

Well all the planning and now it's over.

And yes it does take a lot of planning - numbers of Cubs and Leaders attending change right up to the final week.

So with the menu planned and the quantities worked out it is a simple task of getting all the food (but it won't all fit in the back of my Fiesta). So with the help of Kevin (8th. Hornchurch) Peter (3rd Rainham), Stu and Bruce (2nd Elm Park) I hit Tesco's Gallows Comer. The poor lady that is chosen to have the privilege of serving us cringes and hopes she can change for her tea break.

Grim and I then hit Sainsbury's again on Saturday cos it wouldn't all fit in the fridge and freezer on the Friday. We had a lovely kitchen and everything went I hope like clockwork. I even managed a lie in cos breakfast was later than usual.

Then we panicked cos more Leaders were there than we had been told so were not catered for so sorry if your portions were not quite as big as usual.

Thank you to Roger, Sharon, Kevin, Albert, Grim and Dean for all their help. To all the other leaders who popped in and picked up a tea towel cos they had a spare few minutes.

Not long until we plan for next year our 90 Years of Cub Scouting - lets hope every Pack will attend!!! We were not far short this year.

Linda Thorogood ADC Catering!!!!

Some Cubs Meet the Ex-Chief Scout

Richard Middleton 3rd Walthamstow and I decided to organise a camp whilst we were doing our training and had a few others join in from our training course too Lyn Hawkes (Rainham) and Stuart Grierson (Ilford Air Cadets). We went to Gilwell Park last week end and had a whale of a time - whilst we were there we met the ex-Chief Scout and he came to tea. We had a lovely chat and he was extremely impressed with all the activities our cubs/air cadets and the girls were doing. They all had such fun and behaved impeccably. (After all what self respecting man wants to make a show of himself in front of girls). The ex-chief scout said he was all in favour of girls coming into scouting as it seems that they want more excitement than the guides can now offer ! (ooh) but anyway we had a lovely chat and a pic taken.

**Jaqi Morgon
Dragon Pack
8th Hornchurch**



2nd Elm Park in the GLNE 5 - a - side Football Competition 2005

As with previous years 2nd Elm Park were hoping to enter at least one team in the County 5 - a - side competition. After having two or three teams in the last few competitions I was confident that we would again have a few Scouts interested. I pushed the event for a few weeks leading up to kick off (Saturday 21st May) and was really pleased when I had enough Scouts to enter four teams. The lads were confident as ever, having reached the final in three of the last four years, and coming third last year..... Surely one year we would win it !!!

When we arrived at the Chingford Police sports ground in sun, then the rain, then the sun, then the rain....., it was nice to see that there were a few other Troops from the District being represented (1st Upminster, 3rd Upminster, 2nd Cranham, and 8th Hornchurch)

The competition was run on the usual format of a league stage followed by the tougher knockout stage. This meant that every team had the opportunity to play a minimum of three games no matter what their results.

After the first three games we had two teams through to the knockout stage, where they would have to play teams from the other mini leagues that had also done enough to go through.

Unfortunately my B Team lost their next game and went out of the competition, but they were extremely happy with their 5th place finish.

The A Team, having won their previous three games letting in just one goal, won their extremely tight quarter final game 1 - 0 and went onto the semi final high in confidence. They then played even better in the semi final and managed to gain passage to the final with a 2 - 0 win.

So to the final..... There was a huge sense of déjà vu with us having been here all those times before, and I really wanted these lads to do well as four of them would be Explorers before next years event. Although they were all looking extremely tired (except Chris who'd had very little to do in goal), they were well up for the final. The match was extremely tight, and Chris in goal had a very busy time, making some superb saves to keep us in it, until nerves were settled with our opener. This saw us take control of the game and just before the end we scored a second to FINALLY win the final 2 - 0.

Both the lads, and myself were extremely happy and this was a nice way for the older ones to play their last football game for us..... even though the man of the match was Chris in goal at just 10 years old. Well done to Nicky Wells, Jack Stranger, Scott Freeman, and Chris Wells.

This, as ever was a very enjoyable day and I look forward to seeing Hornchurch District well represented next year.

Stuart Barham
2nd Elm Park Scout Leader
Hornchurch District Scout Leader





'Sir' Bob Law

I have known Bob for 20 years since I joined 1st Cranham as an ACSL. Whatever I have done and wherever I have been I could always guarantee that Bob would be there to help, be it a Beaver Wellie Walk, Gilwell Reunion, Swimming Gala and too many camps to mention.

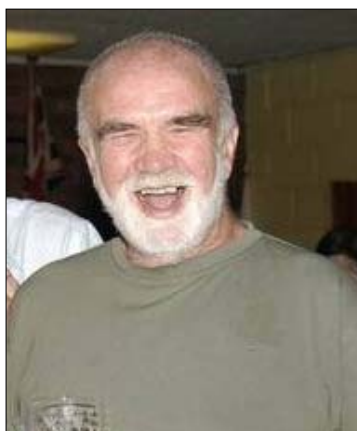
What do I remember most about Bob well he would never get out of his tent at Camp without a cup of black coffee and he always ate Hobnobs. The following sums him up.

SIR BOB
NOW IS THE TIME TO SAY GOODBYE
BUT LIKE GOOD SCOUTS WE WILL NOT CRY
THOSE EXPLORERS PUT YOU TO THE TEST
BUT IN YOU THEY FOUND THE BEST
LEADERS CAME AND LEADERS WENT
THEY COULD BE HIDING IN YOUR TENT
HORNCHURCH DISTRICT HAS LOST A FRIEND
HOPE WE DIDN'T SEND YOU ROUND
1st. CRANHAM WILL MISS YOU MOST
TO HAVE HAD YOU AS A LEADER IS THEIR FINE BOAST
CAMPS WILL NOT SEEM THE SAME WITHOUT SIR BOB
WHO CAN WE FIND TO DO THAT JOB
AS YOU CAN SEE YOU WILL BE MISSED
SO COME ON EVERYONE LET'S GET P*****D
AUSTRALIA SEEMS SO FAR AWAY
SO PLEASE SIR BOB COME BACK ONE DAY.

It has been an honour to have known you good luck in your life in the land down under.

LINDA THOROGOOD

1st. CRANHAM





3rd.Cranham Diamond Jubilee

As part of their Diamond Jubilee Celebrations the 3rd Cranham Scout Group are holding a reunion for Old Scouts on Saturday 16th July at their H.Q. The Cooper's- Coborn School .St Mary's Lane, Upminster, and are trying to contact as many of them as possible but many last known addresses are out of date .If any readers know of anyone who is eligible especially older members who went to the School in Bow when the Group was the 11th Stepney and later the 22nd Tower Hamlets (West) please ask them to contact the Group's Secretary Mrs Margaret Fink ,20 Deyncourt Gdns,Upminster,RM14 1DE (Tel 01708 472553)for further details of this event.

Changing Face of Scouting.

This is the 41st. Edition of Scouting About. Over the last 10 years, there have been labels in each edition which have reflected the nature of the article such as "Troop Talk or Colony Chat".These have used alliteration which is a literary technique to give the title an attractive focus.

In this latest edition of Scouting About, you may have noticed a little tweaking here and there. I have continued with the alliteration but changed the emphasis to one of activity rather than chat. These labels , hopefully, reflect this so there is "Beaver Bustle" to reflect the possible frenzied activities which may go on in a colony or "Cub Capers" which may equally reflect the activities which go on in a cub pack. These are meant to be an editorial addition and not to be any form of judgement.

There are also design changes which make the format more interesting but simpler. For those who are technically minded, this edition was written in a FREE programme which is downloadable from the internet called "Ragtime Solo".This is a simple desk-top publishing programme which works better than Microsoft Publisher which is what has been used for the last 10 years.

Editor

District Cub Camp 2005

When I said in 2004 that I would run district cub camp I had no idea that 3 weeks prior to camp I would once more be in hospital. Preparation for camp went on for six months before my hospital visit, so when camp loomed up all was ready apart from me. What I had forgot is we have some superb leaders in this district and given their task went about it competently.

13 out of 17 packs attended. The theme was **Space** so pedal cars became moon buggies, trampolines lack of gravity, laser tag needs no explaining an pedaloos set off on the sea of tranquility. The 3D maze I am not sure there, and there were bases put on by leaders too numerous to mention. I spent most of the camp in my wheelchair, too scared to move on pain of death or worst being sent home. There are too many people to thank individually, but the catering team must get a mention, and as you did so well we might consider you next year.A special mention however to Dean (DC) for doing all the bits I should have done.Thanks.

Being in a wheelchair lots of young folk came to talk to me so it was great to hear them say how much fun they had,and that's why we do it.

To every leader, lay helper, pack helper thank you.

Jim Berry Deputy District Commissioner.



Robert (Sir Bob) Law

On 25th May this year a group of Leaders from across Hornchurch District gathered to wish Bob Law 'Bon Voyage' as he set off for his new life down under in Australia. Bob is known by many for his role within the Explorer Scout section but his Scouting Career dates from the early 1980's.

First Warranted in 1980 as an ACSL with 1st Cranham, eventually changing to VSL in 1986 and serving as GSL between 1991 to 1996. Bob was also actively involved with Thurrock District Venture Scouts and was a staff member on Essex Jamborees. He was also a key part of Gilwell Reunions for a number of years helping out behind the bar. He got involved with Explorer Scouting from its birth and was appointed as District Explorer Scout Administrator in 2001.

Bob was awarded the Bar to the Long Service Decoration (25yrs) in 2003 and The Medal of Merit for "outstanding services to scouting" in 2004. Bob was also the only leader in the District to hold the Scout Wings for Parachute Training. Bob will be remembered by many I'm sure for his help and dedication at so many camps or events. Bob would never complain or say no. If he was free he would be helping and wouldn't care what task he would be doing. I remember when I ran my first District Cub Camp that Bob was there to help pitch all the tents and could always be found where work was the hardest or the most tiresome. Linda Thorogood once told me that Bob was the most invaluable behind the scenes leader she has every known, only disappearing out of sight when parents arrived at a camp (how wise!). Jim Berry recalls a District Camp many years ago when he mistakenly collected 200 shoe boxes instead of just 12 and Bob came and collected the left over 188 shoes boxes and took them to his venture unit to make raft type boats and sailed them on Thriftwood Lake. A true Scout Leader who can turn any idea or resource into a great program. Bob will also be remembered for drinking Guinness, eating Nachos and being able to keep up with the younger leaders, although I can recall numerous times when we had to keep up with him!

Bob for a number of years has been called Sir Bob by the leaders who knew him the closest, He technically isn't a Sir (although I'm sure he is worthy of such accolade!). We called him this because he was a true gent, a great leader and a good friend to those who knew him. We all wish Bob all the best in Australia and for the future.

Paul Fix



Bob-a rose between two thorns!