



Hornchurch District  
Scout Association

www.hornchurchscouts.org.uk

# "Scouting About"

## 8<sup>th</sup> Hornchurch Scout Troops / Gladiators Explorers Spring Camp – 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> March 2006

Over the weekend of 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> March the two 8<sup>th</sup> Hornchurch Troops and the Gladiators Explorer Unit went on Spring Camp to Tolmers Scout Campsite in Cuffley.

The camp was excellently organised and run by Dave Cruse and the theme of the weekend was Las Vegas so we didn't actually go to Tolmers we went to Las Vegas and the wide games all had a suitable objective to them, we also went to the Grand Canyon (revolving climbing wall), Desert Treck (blind folder trail, well the sand gets in your eyes), Lucky Seven quiz and a host of other activities based around the theme of Las Vegas.

A couple of the Scouts who attended have given their thoughts below.

I enjoyed Spring Camp a lot because we were doing non-stop activities and all of our Teams points were converted into Dollars (cash) to pretend being in Vegas. It was good in many ways such as races around the campsite and looking for clues in the woods.

The activity I enjoyed the most was the revolving climbing wall where we had to race non-stop until the person next to you fell off first and it could tilt backwards and forwards. At the end of the camp our Troop ended up winning and it was still good even though we did not get anything for it.

**Scott Reed**

Camp – it was fun!! We did loads of cool stuff. Most things were dirty and muddy, but anyhow it was great. We did things such as: numerous wide games, football, orienteering, climbing wall (a revolving one), lots of other games and we were supposed to play volleyball but everyone wanted to play football.

The food was great too; there was pasta bake, fry ups, hot dogs and lots more.

**John Taylor**

As you can see from the above Tolmers has a lot to offer especially the revolving climbing wall which was a big hit with the Scouts, Explorers and also the leaders. Tolmers is only 40 minutes drive away so it is possible to go there for a morning to have a go on the revolving climbing wall – I would strongly recommend it.

Have fun

**Andy Rice**

April '06  
Issue 44

Group  
Circulation:

Beaver Scout  
Leaders

Cub Scout  
Leaders

Scout  
Leaders

Explorer Scout  
Leaders



**We went to London to see the .....**

Janet Winslow and I having been fortunate in being awarded the Silver Wolf were invited by the Chief Scout to attend the Founder's Day Service at Westminster Abbey and after to lunch at the Jolly Hotel-St. Ermin's. This was free apart from travel expenses. Should I go or not, would it be some awful corporate event, manned by scouting people who think they are so important, where you are talked at rather than to. Yes let's give it a go.

On approaching the Abbey, surprise at the length of the queue, the majority of which was made up of brownies, guides and their leaders. Then it dawned on me, of course, the Guide Movement always make more of Thinking Day (Founder's Day) than the Scout Movement (we celebrate St. George's Day more). Anyway we found seats in the Abbey and settled down for the service which was taken by a group of young members of both Movements.

After the service we walked to the nearby Hotel following the map provided and when thinking 'this road isn't marked' turned a corner and there it was. Passed through the front door and into a sumptuous other-world. Were given our name badge and directed up to a galleried lounge for coffee while awaiting the arrival of other Silver Wolf members. Various 'big wigs' including the Chief Scout mingled with us all.

When all were there the Chief Scout gave a short entertaining speech personally thanking us for our long service and hoped we would enjoy the leisurely lunch as a gesture of thanks from the Scout Association. We made our way down to the dining room and again, rather surprised, not the expected buffet of sausage rolls and sandwiches but a three course meal. People had come from all over the UK for this event; on our table we were joined by couples from Lancashire and Jersey. Luncheon was served and individual 'big wigs' joined tables for a course and then passed on to another giving us 'mere leaders' an opportunity to talk to someone at the top. The Chief Scout also managed to meet with the people on each table for a short while.

Janet and I were very impressed by Peter Duncan, a very friendly, approachable, hard-working person who the Scout Association should be delighted to have as the frontman of Scouting. (No evident celebrity traits as is so usual these days).

Yes, we were very glad that we had attended, it had been a very pleasant experience.

Sue Cruse.





**Beaver Wellie Walk-26.2.06  
from a Beaver in 7th.Hornchurch**

I went on a Wellie Walk on Sunday for my Outdoor Challenge Badge. Also my explorer badge. My dad and my sister came along as well. It was great fun. The sun was shining but it very cold. Suddenly there was a big puddle. Do you know what happened next? I stepped in it. I got my socks and my feet very wet. My wellie came off. I did not care as I was having fun. My wellie came off twice. I really enjoyed the walk.

Tom Lotherington

7th.Hornchurch



Photo of some of the beavers in the February Wellie Walk.





District Cub Chess Competition 2006

The competition was held on Thursday 9th February at 2nd Upminster Headquarters. 42 cubs attended, which was very pleasing and shows that chess is still a popular hobby. With so many Cubs it was a challenge to ensure that all the games were played correctly and that all Cubs had a chance to play as many games as possible. Many thanks to Ian & Liz Burton from 2nd Upminster for hosting the event, and helping with the organising.

The competition was a knock out to the last 4 cubs:

Runner ups Jamie Atkins 3rd Rainham  
Edward Lowe 2nd Upminster  
George Bartlett 2nd Elm Park  
Jake Laver 2nd Cranham

Winners Mustapha Khraishi 8th Hornchurch Apollo  
Ryan Lee 8th Hornchurch Appollo  
Alex Govey 2nd Upminster  
Alex Bessent 2nd Upminster

All the winners have been given the details for the County Chess Competition taking place in early March.

Congratulations to all the Cubs who took part.

Albert Ranson  
District Cub Scout Leader



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Elm Park Scouts Take to the Water “Scuba Diving”

Once again there I was floating around the internet whilst I should have probably been working!! and wondering what the Scouts could do on a weekend night that would be new to them all (well 99% of them) and I came up with Scuba Diving!

An email to the chairman of the Scuba Diving club that meets at Harrow Lodge Swimming Pool confirmed that we could take up to 10 Scouts at a time to do a “Try Dive”. This entailed one to one supervision from PADI qualified instructors at all times, a short 15 minute chat explaining the equipment and about an hour under water..... all for just £10 per Scout ( Leaders FREE ).

I handed out the letters and wasn't sure what sort of response I'd get for this new activity, but was really pleased when the forms came flooding back in. During 4 different Sunday's in February and March we took a total of 36 Scouts for a “Try Dive”, and each and every Scout took to it really well. As long as the Scouts had a form filled in by their parents, even the youngest of the Troop could attend and considering the age and size of some of my youngest Scouts, it was excellent to see such confidence in them and the instructors commented on what a pleasure they were to work with.

Why not give your Scouts the opportunity to take part in this unique activity. If you are interested you can email Steve Morris ( chairman ) on:

It's also a very very good way to have a Troop night that's guaranteed to be quiet!!

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Elm Park Spend A Night in the Secret Nuclear Bunker

A spell on the internet at work and my warped brain sitting bored and idle, again lead to a new activity for the Scouts..... A night in the Secret Nuclear Bunker!!

The Bunker itself, situated in Kelvedon Hatch ( just outside Brentwood ), is very large as it was designed to house over 600 military and civilian personnel, including the Prime Minister and to be lived in for 3 months in the event of a nuclear attack. The Bunker is today exactly how it was when it was eventually decommissioned in 1992 as it was costing the government 3 million pounds per year to keep it on standby. It still contains all of the equipment they would have needed to plan the survival of the population in the event of nuclear war.

We took 42 Scouts to the Bunker and after a full tour of this amazing facility, we had full / sole use of the kitchen facilities and indeed the whole Bunker. We soon set about preparing some supper ( hot dogs ) and whilst this was being cooked, the Scouts and the Dad's that were kindly staying to help, went outside to brave the elements and play a wide-game. About 1 hour later and a lot of glowing red noses later, we had some supper and it was soon time for bed. The lads sleeping ( or NOT ) in a large meeting room and the Leaders ( eventually ) in a bunk room surrounded by manikins which was quite spooky / strange..... especially when I eventually found the men's toilet but this was in a large dark room full of manikins, which I didn't notice until I turned around and jumped out of my skin!!

The next morning was time to clear up the Scouts room, in which it looked like there had been some form of nuclear attack!! We had a very simple breakfast of cereal and the parents soon arrived to pick up the lads.

An excellent night at just a cost of £6 per person and a couple of pounds each for the food you decide to cook. This is an activity that we will most definitely do again, so why not give it a go with your lads, as it's ideal for a quick one nighter and for new Scouts ( or Cubs ) that haven't camped before it's a good ice breaker.

For further details visit or email: [BunkerInfo@Japar.Demon.co.uk](mailto:BunkerInfo@Japar.Demon.co.uk)

### **Stuart Barham**

*2nd Elm Park Scout Leader  
Hornchurch District Scout Leader*



## Scout Section

Our first ever Archery competition was held on February 4th at the 8th Hornchurch HQ. The event was divided into 2 sections, under 12 and over 12. Overall we had 43 Scouts attend which is a magnificent result. The standard was extremely high and I am hoping to make this an annual event.

Thanks to 8<sup>th</sup> Hornchurch for the use of their hall and equipment.

Forthcoming District / County Scout dates for Spring / Summer 2006 are as follows:

23 <sup>rd</sup> April	St. George's Day Parade
20 <sup>th</sup> May	County 5-a-side Football
2 <sup>nd</sup> – 4 <sup>th</sup> June	County Water Activities Weekend
17 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup> June	District Hiking Weekend
1 <sup>st</sup> – 2nd July	County Scout Linking Event

The Hiking weekend or Marathon is 70 years old this year. All Troops should have received the initial information and booking sheets. If you have not yet got yours please give me a call and I will speed a set to you.

This is the oldest, and in my opinion the best, District event on the calendar, last year we had a massive 33 teams participate over the various events. Let's see if we can not increase that this year.

There will be the following trophies awarded:

Novice	There will be a new trophy introduced this year
Scout	For the Main District Trophy
Explorer	For the Malcolm Reagan Memorial Cheeseboard
Visitors	A new trophy for this year which is being sponsored by Peter Cobley ADC Scouts of Stanford le Hope. This will be awarded to the winning visitors team in the main event.

Also new for this year will be individual trophies which the winning team members will be able to keep.

The District Team is currently working on its programme for Troop visits for 2006, and we hope to visit as many as possible over the coming months. Please do view these visits constructively and use them as an opportunity to discuss any issues or raise any burning questions you have.

Most importantly, please don't forget that the District Team is here as a resource for you, please do ask us about assisting with your training requirements, for both the Leader and Scout. We are more than willing to help with those subjects you don't feel confident with! And if we don't know the answer ourselves; we probably do know somebody that does!

Pete Seddon  
ADC (Scouts)





Letter from Dean Milton County Commissioner

Dear Dean,

Can I be one of the first to offer my congratulations to you and your team on the excellent 2006 census results for Hornchurch. An increase of 6% (67 members) is something you can all be truly proud of and could not have been achieved without the hard work and dedication of all the leaders and helpers in Hornchurch.

Please pass on my sincere thanks to everyone involved in Scouting in Hornchurch District.

Well Done!

Dean J Milton  
County Commissioner  
Greater London North East Scouts

\*\*\*\*\*

Contacts for 2 outside agencies I have used very successfully with my scout troop.

Carlie Mayes, contact for RSPB at Rainham Marshes.

email - Carlie.Mayes@rspb.org.uk

They will arrange for a field teacher to come to your section's evening meeting place. Last November a chap came to my troop night with the necessary materials to make bird nesting boxes. It occupied the whole evening and all scouts made and took home a bird box. Had to pay for the kits we used but a very good evening - surprising how many youngsters nowadays have very little idea of how to even hit a nail in straight!

Lisa Franklin, contact for HAVCO (Havering Association of Voluntary & Community Organisations), Romford

email - lisa.franklin@havco.org.uk

On reading that they had recently opened a computer suite I contacted them to ask if they could do the scout IT badge for me. Unfortunately they do not open in the evenings but on reading the IT badge syllabus she devised a course for a party of 10 scouts to do an hour a week prior to troop meetings over a period of three weeks. The scouts really enjoyed it and I found her very helpful.

Sue Cruse

\*\*\*\*\*

I have a few Shanks Recycling Paper Boxes, anyone interested in having one for their scout hall/church hall please contact me. They will not be collected but can be used in conjunction with the orange recycling sacks.

Sue Cruse



GSL report

This year has, so far, been an incredible year at 3rd Upminster with a multitude of things happening. We have seen a group Executive rise to the Challenges/requests of the Leaders and their hard work has shown us what can be done through supporting the front line guys, the leaders. As such leaders have been enthused, numbers have risen. There will always be areas to work on and as such we will always be looking forward. We have been preparing for a year now on co-educational Scouting as this comes into practice shortly. Embraced the new training scheme, which itself is great, but as a group we were not ready for it and as such this has taken longer to get off the ground. The key thing in all of this is how do we go forward and make sure we provide safe exciting Scouting and the first thing you must do is trust your team and you can only do this if you know them. I don't take them all out for dinner, have you heard Dan Aherne's evening chat, but do try to make the effort to speak to them and thank them, 18 to date.

I would like you all to take the time to say a big thank you to them and encourage our new leaders. So far we have had 6 new applicants up to Easter and 3 have come forward because of existing leaders.

Last night I had the pleasure of attending the presentation evening at the Scout Troop. I unfortunately could only arrive 10 minutes before because of my business. Living in Harlow meant it impossible to get my uniform so I knew I would be disappointed not to be able to present some of the awards with Peter Seddon, ADC (Assistant District Commissioner) Scouts. Although I always keep a t-shirt in my car this was dirty from the previous week. Sarah Jane, Marks wife, if you didn't know, produced a nice clean ironed shirt for me. The evening was the smartest I have seen the troop in a few years and the evening ended with a parent challenge.

This evening told me why I do this job, which is to support the leaders to the best of my ability, find answers when they can't, encourage them even when it doesn't go right and be a friend.

As I write this it brings all those emotions out and I realise I am quite frankly proud of them all.

So may I thank once more Gordon and the whole Executive, Mark and the Scout team, Helen and team at Wesley Beavers, Sue and her bounce at Livingstone Beavers. May I also say keep it going to Paul, Laura, Paul and Ann at Livingstone cubs and Roger and the boys at Wesley cubs.

May I single out both Adam and Dan who have been supportive of me for the last 6 years as GSI. Having been around since the time of many GSI's Les, Keith, Val and Edna it is clear to me why I do this. Because I want to put something back and for that I am will not keep quiet.

Peter Ager  
Group Scout Leader