



Hornchurch District  
Scout Association  
www.hornchurchscouts.org.uk

# “Scouting About”

40th.Edition !!!

## £1000 from Jack Petchey Helps Trip to Iceland

41 scouts and explorer scouts from 2<sup>nd</sup>.Elm Park Scout Group will be off to Iceland in July, thanks to their own efforts in raising over £11,000 and to the generosity of the Jack Petchey Foundation. 16 adults will join them and the trip will include some scouts from 1<sup>st</sup>.Elm Park Scout Group.

The trip will consist of one week in Hafnarfjordur where they will go whale- watching, hiking and visiting the blue lagoon natural springs. They will be staying with local scouts in a hostel, which is 14 miles from Reykjavik, the capital of Iceland.

In charge of the trip is the Scout Leader Stuart Barham at 2<sup>nd</sup>.Elm Park who has been assisted by Graham Crossman. Amongst the fund raising ideas, which took them 10 months to raise, 2<sup>nd</sup>.Elm Park Scout Group leaders have completed the Three Peaks Challenge. This consisted of 15 leaders running up Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowdon all in one weekend for sponsorship money.

The photograph shows Stuart and some of the scouts being presented with a cheque for £1000 by Stephen Corriette the Grants Manager from the Jack Petchey Foundation. The foundation focuses on projects and programmes that benefit young people aged 11 ~ 25. The foundation started in East London but now includes North London and West Essex.



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



# D.C.'s Discourse...

This is a very special edition of "Scouting About". Not only is it the 40<sup>th</sup> edition, but it also marks ten years of this excellent publication. It only seems five minutes since I read the first copy - It's amazing how time flies when you're enjoying yourself! Much of the credit for the success of our newsletter lies with the excellent editorship of Avril Searle. Thank you Avril - here's to the next ten years!

We have also have a number of other things to celebrate:

- Since the last edition we have celebrated St. George's Day and in particular we have all joined in congratulating Sue Cruse and Janet Winslow on their very well deserved awards of The Silver Wolf. This is the highest of all Scouting's honours for good service and is rarely awarded. It is therefore highly distinguished and a great honour to have two of our longest servicing leaders so publicly recognised. Thank you Sue and Janet for all that you do for Scouting in this District.
- It gives me much pleasure to highlight that as a District we have risen by ten members on last year to **1080 members** in the annual census. We therefore continue to be the biggest (and best!) District in the County, and this is much to the credit of each and every leader and helper for providing exciting and enjoyable programmes for our youth members. On their behalf, many thanks! Special congratulations also to 2<sup>nd</sup> Cranham, 1<sup>st</sup> Elm Park, 2<sup>nd</sup> Elm Park, 1<sup>st</sup> Rainham, 3<sup>rd</sup> Rainham and 2<sup>nd</sup> Upminster who grew as groups during the previous year.
- We managed to field a full team in the County Swimming Gala and not only claimed fourth place overall, but managed to win the Explorer Scout Section (more about this features later on in this edition). My congratulations to everyone who took part.
- 1<sup>st</sup> South Hornchurch Scout Troop has been re-opened under the leadership of Pete Seddon and Jim Berry. They started with 4 members, then 6, then 9 and then 11. Hopefully new adult support will be found in due course and 1<sup>st</sup> South Hornchurch will again become the successful force that it used to be.
- During the first weekend of the Easter holidays, a large team of volunteers helped to empty the old District Stores at Gwilcoo, prepare the ground at the Paddock and help load our new stores building when it arrived. This new facility will help us to expand the already ample supply of equipment that is held at District level and it available to all Groups and Sections.  
The following helped to carry out this project; Jim Berry, Linda Thorogood, Scott Wilderspin, Graham Crossman, Roger Fall, Stuart Barham, Keith Carver, Bob Law, Jan Fletcher, Sharon Moore and Jan Luscombe ... and not forgetting Jamie Thorogood (for providing the lorry to move the equipment) and Roy Wilderspin (for coordinating the levelling of the ground at the Paddock). A number of us celebrated a successful day with a barbecue in the evening. My thanks to all involved for their efforts.
- This July a group of young people from Hornchurch will be travelling to Kenya to renovate a Childrens Centre and a Vocational Training Facility. The group includes Explorer Scouts from our District, Guides and members of the Saltire Youth Group and is being lead by Charles Cox (District Treasurer) and Sandra Cox (Division Commissioner for Hornchurch Guides). This is an excellent project and we wish all involved a fantastic time. The group is still looking for donations however, so if you think you know of a way they could be helped please call 01708 442625.

All of these achievements continue to highlight for me the benefits of being part of Scouting in Hornchurch. We are a very strong and close District and I would like to take this opportunity to again thank each and every member for the part that they play in our success.

Before we know it, both the District Hiking Marathon and District Cub Camp will be with us. I look forward to seeing you all at these events (if not before).

Keep up the Good Work and Happy Scouting!

**Dean Jefferys**  
District Commissioner

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# News/Events...

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## Silver Wolf for Janet Winslow and Sue Cruse

### Sue Cruse-GSL 8th.Hornchurch

Sue Cruse's commitment to scouting within this District is virtually without comparison. For the last forty years or so she has consistently given service of the very highest standards, both to her own group and to the district as a whole.

As ADC (Adult Training) she has created and led a highly organised programme of Training for Leaders and Helpers in this District. She inherited a District without much of a history of Woodbadges, but has turned this around, so that now the vast majority of our Adults are fully trained. To such an extent indeed, that while she has been ADC, this District has had more adults with Wood Badges than that at any other time in its history.

She continues to be the prime-motivating factor within her Scout Group – 8<sup>th</sup>. Hornchurch-a group which has nearly two hundred members and eight sections, making it larger than some Districts. She plays a major role in the recruitment, induction and support of her leaders and regularly visits all the Sections. As Group Scout Leader she is regularly seen at all the Group's Sectional Meetings and is known by all the young people. The Group continues to be highly successful, and plays an active part in the events organised by the district.

The 8th Hornchurch Scout Group has two Beaver Scout Colonies, Four Cub Packs and two Scout Troops. A group this size needs an enormous amount of support and encouragement, and Sue has endeavoured to keep the group going. She has always managed to find willing parents to become new leaders and supporters,

Running a group this size is an immense task - such a big group could easily become unmanageable, but Sue continues to recruit new leaders and helpers and is helping them in the induction process. Indeed without all her efforts during this difficult time, it is my firm belief that the whole group could have suffered.

Sue, who lives in Upminster, actively helps sections that are short of leaders, and has for some time now acted as both a Beaver Scout Leader and Scout Leader for the Group. Despite a background in Cub Scouting, she has risen admirably to the challenge and now leads two very strong sections, with growing numbers of youth members and other adult help.

Sue with Silver Wolf –photo taken at  
St George's Day

From Sue

I would like to record my thanks to Dean for recommending me for the Silver Wolf (it was a complete surprise) and to all my Scouting colleagues for their congratulations. All I try to do is my best!

Sue Cruse

GSL 8th Hornchurch,



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# News/Events ...

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## Silver Wolf for Janet Winslow

Janet Winslow's commitment to scouting within this District is immense. For the last forty years she has consistently given service of the very highest standards, both to her own group(s) and to the district as a whole.

As ADC (Beaver Scouts) she has created and led a highly organised team of District Beaver Scout Leaders, providing support to all of the fifteen Beaver Colonies within her care and devising a busy programme of district events.

She works hard to keep all of the Beaver Colonies going, and helps in the recruitment and retention of leaders and helpers. To such an extent in fact that when ever there is a leader shortage, she is the first one to volunteer to take over the running of the Colony in the interim.

She is highly involved in the organisation of numerous district events, competitions and fun days. It is not an exaggeration to say that these events would not have happened without her enthusiasm and dedication. In addition, she regularly acts as a Personal Training Adviser for new leaders, and is a regular helper at our Initial Training Courses.

Working in association with the other ADC's, she has led the way in creating links across the district, leading to more members transferring between sections.

She has always been a prime-motivating factor within the Scout Groups that she has been attached to, and has played a major role in the recruitment, induction and support of her leaders. She has recently begun helping with the 3rd Rainham Scout Group, where she is regularly seen at all the Group's Sectional Meetings and is known by all the young people. The Group is becoming highly successful, which is much to her credit.

When she was with the 1st South Hornchurch Scout Group, it went through some difficult times, which has meant that Janet was one of the only leaders who stayed with the group. Thankfully she managed to recruit some new leaders and helpers and helped them through the induction process. Indeed without all her efforts during this difficult time, it is my firm belief that the whole group would have closed.

With the advent of Beaver Scouting, Janet was one of the first leaders to transfer across to this new section, and quickly developed an exciting programme that was the envy of Groups across the District. Her subsequent appointment as a District Beaver Scout Leader was therefore no surprise.

In addition to these achievements, Janet has found time to help in the organisation of events run by all of the other training sections, and often takes a lead in the coordination of District Activities.

She has recently rejoined the 7th Hornchurch Scout Group and is playing a major part in the running of this established and popular group.

Janet has given service of the most exceptional nature over many years, and this service deserves to be recognised.

Janet received her Silver Wolf at Windsor on St. George's Day

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# Pack Patter...



This year was going to be the year I slowed down with the amount of scouting I undertook. So when our ADC. cub scouts stepped down I said I would oversee District Cub Camp. I would point out that I made this offer with a glass of wine in my hand and within ear shot of Dean (DC). Next thing I know any cub scouting queries contact Jim Berry?

Next my good friend Roger Fall GSL 1st. South Hornchurch told me of the demise of his group's scout troop. This was quickly followed with a meeting at Roger's house and the troop reopening. This has been a great success and from 4 members at the first meeting we quickly rose in numbers to 11. Pete Seddon ADC scouts, Colin Giles DSL and Bruce on loan from 2nd Elm Park have made this possible. 1st.Cranham invited the troop to their recent camp and 6 scouts joined them at Thriftwood. My next venture is a visit to hospital for more surgery on my legs. Perfect timing as the football season is over (well it is for my team) and I can have a rest.

## Tony Collins– a tribute

I first met Tony as an 8 year old cub scout with the 2nd Rainham scout group. I can recall him competing with the 8th Hornchurch Jupiter cub pack for the athletes badge. 12 years later he started work at the same factory that I work in (Remploy at Barking).

He is still very athletic and competes with team GB for people with disabilities. Tony runs in the 5000 metres and the half marathon. This year he has already competed in Portugal and in Paris. Later this year he is off to Australia.

In the Paris half marathon there were 20,000 runners. Tony came in number 371 and was the first GB runner to finish whilst his brother was the second GB team member to finish.

The GB team received the Bronze European cup medal , and as you can see from the picture Tony also won two medals. He still calls me Akela when I nag him and says he loved his cub scout days. Tony receives no funding and I think he is a credit to young people and to scouting.

## Jim Berry DDC

Tony Collins with both his medals



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# Troop Talk...

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## 2EP Easter Camp

This year, Easter Camp to Wales was a great success, and enjoyed by all who attended.

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> – A very early start of 7am for everyone attending and a long drive to North Wales, especially for those in the minibus. Leaving on time and plodding along in the minibus, we were making reasonable time. We soon reached the M1 and chugging along at a steady 65mph, we were doing well, with the Scouts behind me in good singing voice, listening to Bruce Springsteen.... “WAR URGH, WHAT IS IT GOOD FOR..” On to the services on the M54 and still making good progress. The stop was needed and did everyone good. The clown at the service station looked a bit surprised to see 24 Scouts all wanting balloon animals!! Back on the road and crossing the border of England to Wales, This seemed to inspire further singing. Especially from Pinto.. “WAR URGH”

Along the long and winding A5 we travelled until me and Pinto heard the dreaded words “I think I’m gonna be si.....” and it was too late. Mess cleaned up and a little while later we arrived at Trefriw and looked for the owner’s house so we could pick up the keys (losing count on the times we drove up and down the same road!!!).



Finally picking up the keys we headed off to our location. Winding roads and steep hills, we got slightly lost, and let’s just say I was getting slightly stressed... added to by “WAR URGH, WHAT IS IT GOOD FOR...” We arrived at Colnel Scout Centre. This campsite wasn’t your average Scout Campsite, it was set in beautiful hills surrounded by a lake and waterfall, and no one around to bother us. What more could you want with 24 loud Scouts. By 3pm we were unloading the minibus, moving everything to our site for the weekend. The ground was a little boggy in places but dry in others.

Tents up and bags unpacked the Scouts got their first free time before dinner. Bangers and Mash for dinner and cleaned up, we were heading for our first activity, the Ogwen Valley Mountain Rescue Centre. Arriving at the bungalow we were split into three groups and we headed inside, to look at the equipment stores the garage / very impressive Landrover and the radio ops room. The night ended with a demonstration of stretcher bearing with Grim inside as the victim. We picked some boys to lift Grim. It took 8 in all, and they only just managed to lift him off the floor! Exhausted from the effort we all said our goodbyes offered as much of a donation as we could and headed home for bed.

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> – Waking up to the sun on the lake we had breakfast and headed off to Green Acres Holiday Site where the High Ropes Centre is situated ( the highest / largest in the UK ). We split into two groups, with one staying to be fitted up with a body harness and helmet, while the others walked a short distance to Black Rock Sands, where Top Gear shoot there car shows on the beach. Each group had goes on the zip line, high, high, high ropes, swing and trapeze. I took the opportunity to watch the first Group on the ropes and grab .  
(Continued on next page)

# Troop Talk continued...



2EP Easter Camp continued...

some pictures as well as popping to the beach to check out the other Group. On the second go, I got harnessed up and hoped that the Scouts would bottle out, giving me an excuse... But No!! They were all well up for it, meaning that I had to go as well, with the huge swing causing me to snot all over Joseph... Sorry. All un-harnessed, we headed back to site, the people in punky's car got lost, but somehow managed to make it back before everyone else... although at least he couldn't have been speeding in that old man's car!!

Back on site, and a bit free time again, Steve took all the 1EP's to the waterfall across the lake. Not realising how much boggy undergrowth there was, they headed straight into it. They managed to trek into the water to about 60 metres before they realised time was running out before dinner. It was 40 minutes later when they emerged with very wet feet, and just in time for dinner. The other Scouts had been exploring the wonderful landscape in and around the camp and some had also managed to get wet to the waist, but were happy to sit down for the best dinner on camp of spag bol. Excellent meal and time for the washing up. The evening went quickly and the boys were in their tents by 8pm because of the real cold wind blowing off the lake.

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> – Another sunny morning at 7am a quick breakfast and off to Great Orme Copper Mines ( largest Copper Mine in the world open to the public ) for our morning activity. Arriving but only to the bottom of the hill, as the minibus was never going make it. We ferried the Scouts in cars to the mines. Eventually when everybody was there, we were met by our tour guide and taken to watch a short two-minute film of the history of the mine. We were also shown some ancient bones. Entering the mine in our hard hats, we slowly walked to the third level, which was 18 metres below the surface. There were 9 levels altogether which went down as low as 68 metres. Returning above ground we looked at the archaeology that had been unearthed, finally finishing the tour looking for the copper metal “malachite”, a green rock. Some of the boys found copper and some bone, which some were allowed to keep. Our tour ended with a visit to the shop. Ferrying back the boys to the mini bus in groups we then headed back.

Back at site, we sat down for lunch of hotdogs. Pinto planned his route for the afternoon hike up the hills, to a maximum height of 500 metres ( all we are allowed to do ). Setting off in a big group we gradually spread out into a couple of Groups with the Scouts / Leaders going at a steady pace. Regularly we stopped for us to regroup. We were all hot and tired, but continued heading up into the slight mist that covered the hilltops. We reached a height of about 400 metres, as the mist came in hard and stopped us from walking any higher as myself and Pinto deemed it unsafe. With a mini summit in the distance we walked there and returned quickly, to start our descent back down.

Reaching the road by our site, the boys wanted to walk round to the waterfall that they could see from the site. Grim returned to site to cook dinner so the rest of us headed off around the lake.

(Continued on next page)

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# Troop Talk contin...

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Reaching the otherside of the lake we sat down for a good rest, with some boys choosing to paddle and the age old tradition of skimming stones. Time to head back with me and 2EP choosing to walk the wet grass that 1EP walked the day before and the rest staying to the path. Arriving back we sat down for dinner of waffles, burgers, baked beans, and ambrosia rice and jam for dessert. Dinner over and time for the kitchen tent and table to be packed away, light rain was falling but with the boys all helping well with the packing up, and walking the equipment to the bus, we had the job done in no time. Some boys opted for an early night and some decided to have their own campfire but everyone was off to bed at 10pm, and lights out.



Monday 28<sup>th</sup> – Up at 5.30am and even the late sleepers were dug out of their beds by 6am, but no breakfast till everybody's personal kit was out of the tents. Still not 7am and the first tent of three was down. With the tents and personal gear packed no one wanted breakfast ( not even Grim ). The last of the equipment was transferred from site to the bus and cars and we were off site by 8.30am on our way to our last activity of the weekend, at Plas - y - Brenin National Mountain Centre. Here the boys had a choice of kayaking, climbing or dry slope skiing. With the boy's in groups and the Leaders spilt too, Grim begrudgingly joined some Scouts for kayaking. we split into two groups, The two hour activity went quickly and at 11.30 the boys were finished and sitting eating sandwiches for lunch, except for the kayak's who still hadn't returned. We all felt sure that Grim was to blame.... No stamina !! Eventually they joined us for lunch ( a bit wet, Grim insisting that it wasn't sweat ) and we were soon ready to leave for home. 12.30-We were on the road travelling back on the never ending A5 at 30 mph behind various slow vehicles. Passing the services we stopped at on the way we were making good time, with no stops. Hitting the M54, we were doing really well. Soon reaching the M6. Then joining M11 we all hit a slight road accident but the police were there to move the traffic on. Unbelievably the Scouts had still not fallen asleep and were still singing “ WAR URGH, WHAT IS IT GOOD FOR...” M25 with no traffic problems either, we were soon in Romford and nearly home. With the boys ringing home to say we would be home earlier than planned, we were back at the Scout Hut with the parents waiting for their STILL AWAKE!!! Sons. Seeing all the boys off, us Leaders put the last of the equipment away and headed home ( The G.I ) for a well earned beer.

“Great Easter Camp, the best one I've been on as a Scout and cant wait till Iceland” Michael Morton, 1EP Scout.

“Excellent camp, even if it was a long drive” Sean Kelly, 2EP Scout.

“Been in Scouting for 17 years, doing endless amounts of camps. There hasn't been a better one than this” *Stuart Barham 2EP SL (ME)*

“Nope, can't think of a better camp” *Richard Pinto 2EP ASL*

So, as you can see, this was simply a great camp: different views, different scenery, different country, and many different activities. My advise to you.

**DON'T MISS OUT, MAKE SURE YOU'RE ALL AT THE NEXT CAMP WHICH IS ON A BOAT!!!!**

# More news...



## 25 years service award.

Albert Ranson received a Bar to the Long Service decoration at the St. George's Day. His certificate was in recognition of 25 years service to Scouting.

Well done Albert.

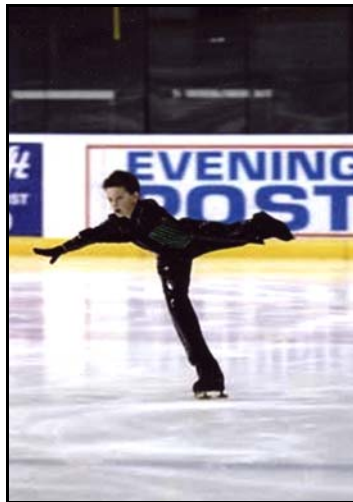
## 3rd Cranham's Ice Champion

Joshua Spong aged 12, won a Silver Medal at the National Ice Skating championships which was recently held in Nottingham. Joshua who lives in Romford, is a Scout with the Coopers'-Coborn School Troop and a pupil of the School.

To gain a Silver Medal in the championships, Joshua landed all his jumps and combinations as he successfully completed his 2 1/2 minute free programme.

Reaching this high standard has required many years of hard work and dedication and Joshua not surprisingly has also gained the Ice Skating Activity badge at Instructor level as well as the Fitness Challenge for this sport.

Joshua is pictured on the ice at the recent championships.



## 8th Hornchurch Scouts Winter Camp at Downe, Kent

Keep looking at the weather forecast for the weekend - you never know all these snow flurries may -be over by the time we go. Oh no ail these young scouts going - I feel obliged to go, with their mums worrying about their son's first scout camp. Perhaps I could come back for the Swimming Gala with our scout team! (Roof of the Sport Centre falls in so Gala is off - at least that decision has been made for me), Food ordered online, accommodation booked, equipment packed, it's seven o'clock and off we set, 2 minibuses of 31 scouts plus leaders bound for a full weekend's activity camp at Downe, Kent. Good run down - no snow 'til we get in the vicinity of the site. Park up in the car park, which is extremely icy, try not to get hit by any snowballs thrown by the scouts, Walk down the snowy-, slippery slopes to our building; got there without falling over, Ooh lovely and warm indoors, Oh food not here yet. Give it a bit longer, dying for a cup of tea! Still not here, send a runner to main building - have they got our food? - No, Getting worried, phone Tesco - redirected several times - your order has been cancelled, due to weather conditions!!

We'll have to get the shopping now -. Andrew and I brave the slippery slopes back to the car park to make our way to the 24 hour Tesco in Sevenoaks. Get to Sevenoaks, jump in and out of minibus accosting various people to find the supermarket - at last there it is. The question is, should we just get some food to tied us over 'til tomorrow or get it all. It's so late now we might as well just get the whole lot which we did and then made our way back to the site. Went to bed about 5 a.m. It must get better, surely.

It did, we had a good camp-the scouts making use of the hills to sledge down.

Sue Cruse -GSL 8<sup>th</sup>.Hornchurch

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# Troop Talk...

## County Chess Competition 2005

Again this year Hornchurch District Scouts entered a team of four into the County Chess Competition. As with previous years we entered the four semi - finalists from the District competition which was held back in January.

The County Competition was held on Saturday 5th March and was again held in a very posh Scout Hall in Barkingside. All four of the Scouts met at the District HQ, where I provided transport to ensure we all arrived at the same time ( 10 minutes late!!! ) When we *eventually* arrived it was pleasing to see that numbers were up on last years event, with eight of the County's twelve Districts represented.

As ever the event was very well / professionally run by Phil Wray. The event saw all competitors playing five games each, with the aim of gaining a point per win and even half points if the game was deemed a draw / stalemate after 15 minutes.

After a good / very quiet 3 hours of highly competitive games, ( I'm sure this is the only Scouting event where you don't go home with a headache )

Hornchurch District were placed in a very respectable 4th place. Congratulations go to Thomas Sansom ( 2nd Upminster ), Matthew Potticary ( 2nd Upminster ), Willow Goodchild ( 8th Hornchurch - St Georges ), and Jake Briggs ( 2nd Elm Park ). All 4 Scouts performed very well, with each of them gaining some points for the District.

I look forward to seeing as many of the Troops represented as possible at the next District competition, and maybe going onto represent us at the County Competition in 2006.

**STUART BARHAM**

*2nd Elm Park Scout Leader,*

*Hornchurch District Scout Leader*

### **The Scout Fellowship AGM**

Monday 8 May 2005 at 1<sup>st</sup> Upminster Headquarters, 'Gwillcoo',  
Brookdale Avenue, Upminster at 8.15pm onwards

A specialist company will be providing us with 'Wine Tasting' after the short business meeting, but we are limited to a maximum of 30 people so you need to book early.

Please phone Terry Morley on 01708 449863 to guarantee your place!

We would particularly like to welcome members of the District who are not currently Fellowship Members. We Support You, so please Support Us!

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# Gilwell Reunion...

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## The 79<sup>th</sup> Gilwell Reunion, 2<sup>nd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> September 2005

Gilwell Park Scout Centre, Chingford

All adult members of the District are invited to the annual Gilwell Reunion which takes place between the 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>. September. This yearly weekend of fun is an opportunity for adults from across the UK to come together and to try new activities, pick up programme ideas and perhaps most importantly, to unwind and meet other scouters.

The fun starts on Friday with either live entertainment in The Lid, drinks at The Inn-at-the-Park, a visit to the on-site Cinema or even a Quiz. Saturday sees a whole host of bases, activities and new things to try out, with a campfire in the evening and more live entertainment in the evening plus the infamous Karaoke. Sunday sees more activities to try, a mass Scouts Own and tea with the Chief Scout!

Each year an ever increasing group of Scouters from Hornchurch attend this annual pilgrimage and camp together – all you need is a tent, a bit of spending money and the ability to enjoy yourself!

The cost of the weekend is £27.00, but if you book early then it's only £24.50 (that's cheaper than in 2003!).

For further details check out the official Reunion website at:

[www.scout.org.uk/reunion](http://www.scout.org.uk/reunion)

If you are planning to come, please inform Jim Berry (Deputy DC) so that we can mark out a large enough camping area.



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