



Hornchurch District
Scout Association
www.hornchurchscouts.org.uk

“Scouting About”

Hornchurch Scouts Greet the Queen!

“Her Majesty The Queen has today made her first ever visit to Romford, and was officially greeted by a guard of honour of 15 Scouts and 2 Leaders from Hornchurch District Scout Council. The Scouts, representing virtually every Scout Group in the District, met Her Majesty as she officially opened the new Community House building in Eastern Road, Romford.

Dean Jefferys, District Commissioner for Hornchurch was introduced to Her Majesty and explained where all the Scouts had come from. He greeted the Queen with the customary left handshake and explained how proud the scouts were to be there on this special occasion. Her Majesty commented on the excellent turnout from the different groups and the smartness of the scouts. She also commented on the large number of badges worn by some of the contingent and asked what they had to do to achieve them.

Her Majesty then embarked upon an impromptu walk about, crossing the road to speak to the many onlookers, which included a number of the scout's parents. Some minutes later, she was joined by HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, who again commented on the fact that members had come together from across the borough for this auspicious occasion. The Royal Party then departed in the Royal Car for the slow drive down South Street and a walkabout in Romford Market. District Commissioner Dean Jefferys said "This was an excellent opportunity to promote local scouting. All the Scouts looked especially smart in their new uniforms and were a credit to their Groups and to Scouting in general. Her Majesty seemed to really appreciate their attendance". “

Article sent to Romford Recorder.



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Group	<input type="checkbox"/>	Venture Scout Leader	<input type="checkbox"/>	Scout Leader
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D.C.'s Discourse...

As I write this article I have just returned from spending the day with both 8th Hornchurch Scout Troops & the Hornchurch Explorer Unit aboard HQTS Lord Amory - the Greater London Central Water Activities Centre. The Scouts and Explorers were having an excellent time afloat, taking part in a variety of different water activities, such as canoeing, sailing, rowing and power boating. By the look of it, an excellent weekend - perhaps other groups might like to try it - contact Andy Rice for further details.

It was pleasing to see so many people at St. George's Day, despite it falling during the Easter Holidays this year. The numerous letters & emails that I have received would seem to suggest that the majority of you enjoyed (if that's the right word) this year's service. However nothing is perfect, so please feed back to your ADCs any suggestions for next year. The collection raised about £170 and will be donated to a local children's charity.

Many of you will have heard by now that Iris Taylor-Morley of 1st Upminster has been awarded The Silver Wolf - the highest good service award in scouting. This rare award is awarded by the Chief Scout to those who have given exceptional service over many years - and Iris is indeed a worthy recipient. Congratulations also to Linda Thorogood & Mike Bacon who have been awarded The Medal of Merit. They have both given over fifteen years service both to their groups and have held district roles, so thank you and many congratulations.

I started this article by mentioning an exciting day that I had just spent at The Lord Amory. It is these sort of events which help to increase our membership. It is no small coincidence that the biggest groups & sections are the ones which have the most active programmes. We can't all devote every weekend to scouting, but perhaps we can all try to put the 'out' into scouting and get our young people doing more of what the join the movement to do - i.e camping & outdoor activities.

I'll leave you with that thought ...

Yours in Scouting
Dean Jefferys
DC.

Death of Janet's husband.

On behalf of all in the District, I would like to offer our deepest sympathy to Mrs. Janet Winslow, ADC Beavers, on the sudden death of her husband, Roger. Our thoughts are with you at this sad time.

News...

David Collins– a Tribute

A short tribute in memory of Dave Collins who sadly died in early March after a short savage period of illness. Dave first joined the Group as a football manager when his eldest son was a cub in Jupiter Pack; as if often the case he was persuaded to take out a warrant as an ACSL. Dave entered fully into all activities: he commented when camping at Hargreaves on the delights of trying to sleep whilst listening to traffic on the All particularly mentioning a motorbike which seemed to go from zero to 100 mis per hour in the time it took to pass by. Another time he ended up in plaster after tearing his Achilles tendon when refereeing a game of football. He was always ready to help out the scouts and ventures when his sons were members; many's the time he was co-opted into driving the minibus. After his cub appointment he progressed to a member of the Group Executive and then took the chairman's role for a number of years until he had to relinquish this position owing to work commitments; however he continued to attend the Executive as and when work permitted. After he retired he, with his wife Maureen, would often be seen at Fellowship activities and in the Group he took on the task of looking after the scout hall and grounds; he had also just become the treasurer for one of our beaver colonies. He was a true stalwart of the Group and scouting in general, and a very great support to me. Me, being of a rather serious disposition, his parting shot to me would always be 'keep smiling' and when I think of him I do.

Sue Cruse, GSL 8th Hornchurch

Silver Wolf for Iris

Iris Taylor-Morley has been awarded The Silver Wolf - the highest award granted by the Scout Association for **40** years of good service. It is awarded personally by the Chief Scout in recognition of "services to scouting of the most exceptional nature".

Iris joined Scouting 40 years ago when she joined 1st. South Hornchurch when her son became a cub. She moved to 1st. Upminster Scout Group 25 years ago where she is currently a Cub Scout Leader and the Group Scout Leader. She also held the post of Assistant District Commissioner for cubs for 13 years as well as a District Cub Scout Leader.

Iris is one of only **forty** people nationally to receive this award this year, and is only the **fifth** recipient in Hornchurch district over the last 70 years.

(Published in the Romford Recorder-where the wolf turned into a fox!)



County Swimming Gala

On 22nd March was the County Swimming Gala. Hornchurch came Second in the Cub Scout Section, and took first place in the Scout & Venture Scout Sections. Unfortunately we were just pipped to the overall winner's trophy by Epping Forest South, but came a highly respectable second overall (out of eleven districts). Our thanks to all of our team members for taking part.

County "Beaver Leaders and Helpers - Fun Day" (open to all Beaver Leaders and adult helpers)

Saturday 13th September 10am - 4pm

Hargreaves Scout Campsite

Climbing wall, pedal go-karts, archery, orienteering, earth ball, parachutes, programme ideas, and much much more

Cost tba but around £5+6 including lunch, tea and coffee all day, and all the activities Scarf or Group T-shirt to be worn - not full uniform



Colony Chat...

3rd Rainham

3rd Rainham Scout Group's annual award ceremony was a night to remember for the Beavers and Cubs as there were some extra special visitors this year. Sergeant "Budgie" Browne, Drummer Gavin Coats and Guardsman Bucknor-Junior from the Irish Guards brought their mascot Aengus, an Irish wolfhound, along for the evening and presented the boys awards. They explained what it means to be a soldier in the Irish Guards and the boys were treated to ration packs containing curry, chocolate pudding and sweets. Then they got to try out the camouflage paint. After giving out baseball caps, pencil cases, posters and commemorative booklets the soldiers entertained the boys by letting them walk (or be walked by) Aengus and try on some smaller versions of their more formal uniforms although the bearskin hat was full size.

Sergeant "Budgie" Browne presented the following award and certificates:

Sam Snelling - A Trophy and Certificate for Beaver of the Year

Jack Fawsitt - Award Shield for Cub of the Year

Matthew Ager - Activity Badge Shield for most badges earned in the year

Joel Newall - Award Shield for Young Cub of the Year

Patrick Butler -Certificate for Best Sixer

Wayne Brenchley - Certificate for Continuous Improvement

Mark Schubert - Certificate for smartest turned out throughout the year

James Allen - Award Shield for Cub of the Month

A big thank you to all the leaders, the soldiers and to Angela and for all the hard work involved in making the evening special and very memorable.

3rd Rainham Group are looking for boys to join their Beavers (6 to 8 year olds) and Cubs (8 to 10 1/2 year olds). A new mixed Scout troop is also being planned (10 1/2 year old girls and boys).

All enquiries regarding joining 3rd Rainham please call Trevor Havard 01708



2nd Elm Park Beaver Scouts

As a new Beaver Scout Leader (Jan 2003!) I have been gently persuaded to do an article for "Scouting About".

My name is Jill Daltrey and my son joined 2nd Elm Park Beavers in September 2002. I initially was a parent helper who enjoyed helping on a Tuesday evening and a leader was needed so I volunteered!! Our ABSL is Rachel Scott and we have 2 regular parent helpers, between us all we make a great team!!

We participated in the District Wellie Walk and 11 of our Beaver Scouts Joined in. The weather was fantastic and the Beavers seemed to enjoy Themselves.

I have recently done the first part of my Leadership 1 course. It was great to meet leaders from our district and others. Lots of ideas were swapped and new friendships formed.

We have recently done fabric painting on t-shirts, which was a huge success, and our Chinese New Year celebration was great fun and all the Beavers enjoyed the Chinese food we brought in for them to try.

In April I attended my first St. George's Day Parade with my group. We had a good turn out and the weather was kind to us!

I enjoyed my first Parade and if the rest of the year is just as good that won't be bad!

Jill Daltrey

(BSL) 2nd Elm Park Beaver Scout Colony

Colony Chat (cont)...

"Welly Walk" or "MUD, MUD, GLORIOUS MUD" on 9th.March 2003

As the 60 or so Beavers gathered on a grassy field at Berwick Woods in Rainham, little did they realise how muddy their boots would get and how far they would walk.

We left the grass behind and entered the woods on a small track. Walking confidently and chattering away we followed the path across a small wooden bridge and by the side of the main lake pausing briefly to admire the wildlife and vegetation. The Beavers appeared to be disappointed at the lack of mud but that was to change as they were led "off the beaten track" and SPLOSH! straight into a series of 3 metre wide puddles. For a few hundred metres there was no escape from the mud and the noise level rose as each Beaver became stuck or slipped in the quagmire and muddy troughs. A brief respite to check for leaking boots and a photo opportunity and then it was off to explore the concrete pill boxes and derelict gun emplacements of the old Hornchurch Airfields. Even more mud and a trip through some woods (referred to by some as a jungle ?) then it was off to the playground for a drink and a swing or a slide. On the way back some of the Beavers stopped to stroke the wild horses, until the horses decided that 120 arms reaching out for a touch was too much and ran off to the safety of their feeding area.

Back through the mud troughs to the tracks and then back onto the main field. All of the Beavers appeared to have lots of energy left as they were being collected so perhaps next year the walk could be even longer!

Oak, DBSL, 3rd Rainham GLNE.

Details of those attending the welly walk:

Group / number - 1st Elm Park / 3 2nd Elm Park / 11 7th Hornchurch / 8
1st Cranham / 8 - 2nd Cranham / 8 2nd Rainham / 2 3rd Rainham / 6
8th Hornchurch / 14

Note from Janet Winslow:

Thanks you for a lovely afternoon. The boys and girls all seemed to have a whale of a time and we had lots of mud, even my boots were caked. Hopefully you will do the same next year. Janet.



See more pictures on the District Website.
www.hornchurchscouts.org.uk





Troop Talk...

District / County Chess Competition

Mmmmm chess, not everybody's cup of tea, but this year the District and County chess competitions proved to be more popular than in the last few years.

The District competition was held on Saturday 18th January, and as mentioned in the last issue, the numbers were up by 50% on the previous year. Standards were high at the District event and so we hoped to put up a good performance in the County event.

The County competition was held on Saturday 8th March in Barkingside and was open to four representatives from each District in the County. Unfortunately only two of our original semi - finalists could make the event, and so I had to pull on the resources of 2nd Elm Park to make up the numbers. The event was very well run and saw all competitors playing five games each, with the aim of gaining a point per win.

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 3rd place. Congratulations go to Thomas Sansom, (2nd Upminster) Alex Bultitude, (2nd Elm Park) Jake Olma (2nd Elm Park) and a special mention for Robert Hutchison (2nd Elm Park) who finished, individually 2nd place in the event. Although this isn't the most active of the Scouting activities during the year, it's an easy one for the Troop Leaders / parents to send their Scouts to, and proves to be just as much fun. With this in mind it would be interesting to find out as a sectional Leader how many Scouts you have that can play chess, and let's make next years District Competition even bigger.

STUART BARHAM
2nd Elm Park Scout Leader,

2nd. Upminster Website launched.

2nd. Upminster has just launched its own website. It is at the moment, a static site, which means it has no links to other pages except for email but it is a start which can be built on in the future if desired.

The District Website is hosting the website which relieves them of having to spend lots of time on maintenance.

If your group is interested in having a website hosted by the District then please let me know.

Ed.

Troop Talk (continued)...



2EP's Trip to Duxford

At a recent 2nd Elm Park Cub Leaders meeting, that I also attended, it was decided that it would be nice for the Cubs and Scouts to have a day trip out somewhere. After a chat the Cub Leaders and myself thought, through experience, that a good day for all ages would be a day at The Imperial War Museum, Duxford. And why not invite some of the lads from 1EP as well as the families of all attending. So another usual lunch hour filled with Scouty stuff..... coach booked, informed Duxford, letters done, and we were sorted..... all we needed now was the weather!

So the day arrived and more importantly so did the sun (the bright light doing my hangover no good) We packed the 47 Cubs, Scouts and family members (the noise of that many kids doing my hangover no good) onto the coach and left the hut at 09:00. We arrived at Duxford as the doors opened at 10:00 and were allowed to push passed the long queue of yanks, (their annoying accent doing my hangover no good) straight into the first hanger. We'd decided to give the Scouts a free reign, which left the Leaders present to keep an eye on the Cubs.

After a couple of hours Grim and myself thought we'd better catch up with the Scouts we hadn't seen for a while, with the fear of them maybe having destroyed a Challenger Tank or something. But we were pleased to see that they were all behaving quite well and all interested in the vast array of military vehicles, old and new, that were on display.

12:30 came and we had our lunch on the grass outside one of the hangers. During which time one of the older Scouts who was upset that he couldn't play on the toddlers playground, had found a rather larger playground behind hanger 1. Although all the lads were in full uniform, there was going to be no stopping them from taking advantage of the discovery, as well as most of the Leaders (well, my hangover had gone by then) We then all set off over to the pleasure flight, where Grim, Sumeia, Streaky and myself, for some reason had signed up to go for a flight in a 1920's aeroplane. The Cubs and Scouts all stood laughing as they saw us take off in this thing, and much to their disappointment, return after about 15 minutes. If you don't have the pleasure of going up in this sort of aeroplane, the nearest analogy I think I can give the experience, is that I imagine it's like having a piggy back on Jim Berry (but obviously the plane was slightly newer)

After then going through the rest of the hangers and raiding the gift shop, it was 15:30 and time to go home. So apart from my hangover, my cold, Liverpool losing 4 - 0, having to go for a piggy back on Jim, winning nothing on the Grand National and having to put up with Grim all day, it was a great day, enjoyed by all.

I definitely recommend you giving it a go, especially as you only have to pay for transport..... all kids get in FREE!

Easy to organise, cheap for the kids, link between the Cubs and the Scouts, as well as giving you a chance to get to meet some of the parents. So go on, give it a go.

STUART BARHAM
2nd.Elm Park



Recycling...

Trip to the Recycling Plant

On the 18th February the 8th Hornchurch scout group took a trip to the middle of nowhere to see the (rather smelly) Cleanaway Recycling Plant situated on the banks of the river Thames at Rainham.

The afternoon trip started when we all met and sat down in a big room with lots of chairs and had a talk about what happens at the plant and what kinds of things you can recycle and what you can't.

Then after about 30 minutes we all put on the luminous yellow coats and went into the big unit sized and saw all the noisy machines. One of the machines opened the bags so that the workers don't have to do it by hand, these then went along a conveyor belt into a big drum, quite like the inside of a washing machine where the paper was extracted from the rest of the recyclable rubbish. The rest of the rubbish went into a room where workers would sort it and put different kinds of tilings down different chutes, for instance plastic milk cartons and plastic bottles would go down one where as the split clear plastic collecting bags would, together with the Tesco and Sainsbury's bags, go down another. Cans and tins would go in another chute. It would then be collected by a digger and be taken to be squashed and baled. The squashing was done by a huge roller going back and forth over the rubbish. It was then baled and stacked ready for collection to be taken to a factory to be made into more goods.

After this we went back to the room and asked the tour guide any questions she had not answered earlier.

All in all, the visit was well worth going on and we all now know a lot more about recycling.

By James Cooper (8th Hornchurch)

GLNE Courses at Hargreaves.

Scout/Explorer Leadership 1 plus Residential Experience-£60
7/8 June and 18/19 October.

All sections Leadership 1 plus Residential Experience - £60
27/28 September and 24/25 January, 2004.

Residential Experience (part of leadership 1)
17/18 May.

Leadership 2 - £40
8/9 November and 13 March, 2004.

Lifesaver Plus - £60
4/5 October-assessment 19 October.
29/30 November - assessment 7 December.

First Response - £20
13 September.
1 November.

(please note that a minimum first aid qualification will be compulsory from next year) Further details regarding training please phone Sue Cruse (ADC AT) 01708-

Thriftwood...



If you go down to the Woods today?

(A report from Thriftwood)

In the words of Eastenders, "Whats going on?" Well, the new Tuck Shop, and Service Crew buildings have now been completed by the builder. All we need to do is fit them out and do the internal modifications to the existing Thriftlodge. Probably about two months work in all and hopefully the new Tuck Shop will be open for Easter?

Over the Winter months we have been working on constructing a new activity area called a 3D maze. This structure has over 300 feet of tunnels on four levels. We will call it The Kave Maze. Emergency lighting, two-way intercom and hard hats will hopefully make this new attraction safe as well as fun? It is anticipated that the maze will be open for Easter.

Pickles pond has now been stocked with fish, by a generous donation from the Environment Agency. Once again it is hoped that all day fishing can take place from the end of April. Making Pickles pond exclusively an angling water will permit the use of Sapper Lake for evening water activities in the Summer.

Part of the new shop development included the installation of a new sewer pipe, going from the shop to Fourways (centre of Site). We also took the opportunity of laying a new 63mm water main and 90mm natural gas main in the same trench. This will mean cheaper foul water disposal and cheaper heating bills in the future. The reason for installing a new water main is to supply sufficient volumes of water to the proposed new toilet and shower blocks. We have planning permission from Brentwood Borough council for two combined shower & toilet blocks, plus two smaller toilets. The new buildings will be distributed around the site, so that only two camp sites will be more than 100 metres from a loo. All we need now is permission from the four District Executive to proceed. Of course we also have to find the money, but with £100,000 promised by the 'New Opportunity Fund (Lottery money) we should be able to make a start?

Talking of money, 2003 is the year of Thriftwalk. The date is **Sunday 12th October**. Please put this date in your diary and make it a bumper effort so that the new toilets and showers become a reality sooner, rather than later.

Work has also started on extending the old Cub Site No. 21. When complete this will make the new Site 21 & 22 a field 125 metres long by 60 metres wide and should make it an ideal District camp site, as well as being a major arena area.

Thriftwood AGM is Wednesday 30th April, in Oaklodge. Guest speaker - Nick Parker, Programme and Development Manager (Activities) Gilwell park. Time 7.30pm for 8.15pm. Cheese and wine.

Sunday 16th November is the annual Memorial Service and lunch.

If you didn't read the list of Activity Authorisation Courses for Leaders taking place at Thriftwood this year, in the last bulletin then look on our web site www.thriftwood.org.uk or on the Hornchurch District website for the dates?

If you didn't know what was going on, then you do now.

Bill Hindley
Warden/Manager



Wintering at the 8th...

Winter Camp 2003. On the 7th March scouts from both troops of the 8th. Homchurch met at the HQ and loaded the van up and set off in minibuses and leaders' cars for Phasels Wood. One of the minibuses went the wrong way and had to find it's way back with the help of the hand-held radios. When we arrived it had started raining but that didn't dampen our spirits and we unloaded the bags from the vans in an army-like fashion; we lined up down the hut and passed the bags into the main hall. After deciding amongst ourselves who was sleeping where (inside or in tents outside) and who was sharing with whom we unpacked and changed into scruff clothes. Once this was done we took our torches and went for a hike around the campsite, whilst we were out we played a wide game and got fairly muddy but what else do you expect on a scout camp. We went back to the hut for soup and were given the option of staying up to watch Shrek or going to bed. We could also buy some food from the tuck shop, a system that one of the leaders had devised. Most people went to bed between 12.00 and 12.30. The next morning we woke up at around 7.00 and got washed and dressed into scruff kit and then went for a run before doing several different exercises, races and games. Once this was done we headed back to the hut where we had a full English breakfast with cereal, this tasted great and it filled us up for the rest of the morning. After breakfast we washed and dried up before having a bit of free time and then going outside to play a game of football. A lot of people got muddy here but it all added to the fun of the camp and several people even fell head first into muddy puddles - no names mentioned. After a break we went to the assault course and pedal carts where we were split into two groups for the different activities. It wasn't your normal assault course with some boring nets and monkey bars. It had lots of tyres, cargo netting, climbing nets, a small tunnel and there were some high planks of wood to walk over as well. By now many of the scouts from both troops had started mixing and it was a friendly atmosphere. The groups switched over and we went on the pedal carts. If you built up some speed you could get some good splashes out of the puddles and it was great if you got wet. After lunch we went to the potholing complex and grass sledging and again split into two groups. The grass sledges were fun because there were several lanes and we could have races. The potholes were also fun, there were two different complexes. The top one was drier than the lower so we were allowed to go in the top one first if we wanted to go into the bottom one which was muddier and smellier. There was no major incident in the potholes apart from one scout going the wrong way and becoming stuck. It was bad luck that this person was claustrophobic but in the end he got out and there was no harm done. By now as you can imagine we were extremely muddy so we went back to the hut and changed our clothes. After a drink break we began the Crystal Maze which the leaders ran. One of the activities was shooting down plastic bottles using cork guns. Nobody got them all down but it was still fun. Another activity was bowling over more plastic bottles using a tennis ball. The final activity for the Maze that we did that day was a water type challenge. In this you had to fill up a pipe with a crystal in a tube using water from a box running back and forth filling it up until the crystal came up. We then went in for dinner and after clearing away the meal things the rest of the evening was filled up with karaoke singing. In the end because everyone was so tired we ended up going to bed at around 10.00 and this time nobody stayed up for the whole night.

Continued on next page.

Wintering (contin)...



On Sunday we got up at 7.00 again and after washing and dressing we went out for some more exercise as the previous morning. After breakfast we packed away all our stuff apart from what we needed for the rest of the day. This took us a short time and once this was done we went and played a wide game in the woods. This was fun especially as you could climb the trees. One person ended up dangling from a tree upside down because they had slipped and their foot had left them stuck in the tree. After a break we went to the archery and rifle shooting ranges where we were again split into two groups. The rifle shooting was good even if you didn't hit the target and the funny thing was that one of the scouts, who hadn't even hit the target yet, took a pot shot at the target and got a direct bull's eye with the pellet still stuck in the target. We headed back to the hut for lunch and as we were using disposable plates there was no washing up to be done so we went back to the two ranges to begin the final activity of the camp. Before this, we got all of our bags and put them in the main lobby to leave for the leaders to put in the van. We also tidied the hut up and some unlucky scouts from both troops had the disgusting task of cleaning the toilets. After the final activity we boarded the minibuses and cars and arrived back at the HQ where we unpacked the van and went home. Altogether it had been a great weekend away with lots of eventful things happening and even though we got extremely muddy it didn't matter. If a scout didn't get dirty then they weren't a true scout. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the leaders, on behalf of all the scouts, for giving up their time and effort to make our weekend away as great as possible.

On behalf of all the scouts thank you.

Matthew Everett of 8th.Hornchurch.

(A shortened version, otherwise this account would have gone into three pages!!)