



Hornchurch District
Scout Association
www.hornchurchscouts.org.uk

“Scouting About”

Bumper Issue!

2nd. Upminster celebrate 80th.Anniversary

To mark the 80th.Anniversary the 2nd.Upminster Scout Group has designed and constructed a seating area for use by the Parish. This summer has seen a lot of activity in the Church grounds by the Scout Group. The construction of the seating area has been the culmination of work for the Group to achieve the Scout Association Environment Group Award, a badge that may be worn by all members. Planning started earlier this year when the Cub Scouts were asked to create designs for the garden. Once the final design had been drawn the Scouts began construction. The Scouts met at the site during June and with the help of Scout Leader Mike Sansom and Cub Akela Ian Burton the hard work was completed.

The Beaver Scouts lead by “Kanga”, Mrs. Debbie Carter made a patterned boarder by pressing cobbles into wet cement. After the summer break, the Cubs planted the flower beds and the Beavers planted crocuses in the grass ready to flower next spring.

On Sunday, 26th September Father Tim Hide curate at St.Laurence Church blessed the garden and then the Deputy Mayor Cllr Jeff Stafford officially opened it.

The Group began with 20 boys and 3 leaders. Over the years, membership peaked at 160 with Scouts – what fun Church Parade must have been!! Today, there are 75 youngsters, 6 to 14 years, and adults. In July the Group celebrated their anniversary with games and a Bar-B-Q at Upminster Rugby Club. They invited old scouts and retired leaders to join them and people came from all over the country, for that afternoon when the membership swelled to over 200. In true scouting tradition a badge was designed by 11 year old Timothy Rogers which was made to mark the occasion and now worn by all members of the Group.



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Group
Circulation:

Explorer Scout Leader

Scout Leader

Cub Scout Leader

Beaver Scout Leader



D.C.'s Discourse...

I could not start this edition of 'Scouting About' without mentioning the recent death of Ron Sorrell, former District Commissioner for Hornchurch. A more detailed summary of Ron's life appears elsewhere in this edition, but as the current DC I feel I should echo again how sad we are as a District to have lost someone who was so passionate about Scouting. It was however pleasing to see so many people present at his funeral, in fact so many that a number of us had to stand outside the chapel and listen on the speakers. A true Scouter who has 'Gone Home'. Goodbye Ron and thanks for everything.

The recent District AGM was a fantastic success. Again, a very high turnout, a fantastic speaker in Richard Butler, and superbly hosted by 2nd Cranham. Congratulations again to the following who were honoured with good service awards by the Chief Scout:

Les Poulson	GSL, 2 nd Cranham	Medal of Merit
Bob Law	District Explorer Scout Administrator	Medal of Merit
Peter Seddon	ADC (Scouts)	Medal of Merit
Avril Searle	District Chairman, PRO & Webmaster	Chief Scouts Commendation

All of these awards are richly deserved – congratulations to all the recipients.

I was also delighted to present Peter Seddon with his warrant as ADC (Scouts) and Graham Crossman with his warrant as ADC (Activities). Both are already making a real difference. Thank You.

I am really pleased with the progress of the Young Leaders Unit. We now have sixteen regular members and a number of others I am working on. We meet every other Tuesday and take part in a variety of activities, as well as completing training. The Unit is open to anyone aged 14-18. Please contact me for more information.

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

- Attending 2nd Elm Park's Summer Camp and the Essex International Jamboree (Everybody Ugh!)
- ADCs Meal – a pleasant opportunity to formally thank Andy, Sue and Janet for their commitment to Scouting in this District.
- The Investiture of the New Chief Scout at Gilwell. Coupled with the Gilwell Reunion, this was a very enjoyable weekend, and pleasing to see even more Scouters from Hornchurch joining in.
- 2nd Upminster's Harvest Festival Service and the opening of their newly created garden
- Presenting Awards at 2nd Cranham's Open Evening & AGM – A fantastic turnout of Young People and their parents – much to the credit of all the leaders and supporters of the Group.
- Chief Scout Award and Jack Petchey Award Presentations – as Jack said 'You are all achievers – so be proud!' Congratulations to all concerned for your splendid achievements.
- District Away Weekend at Hayling Island – a good time was had by all (why not book now for 2005!)

Vacancies – we still have a need for a District Secretary. We have broken down the role, so that all the volunteer needs to do is take minutes at our Executive Meetings and circulate them. Speak to me or Avril for more details. We also need someone to coordinate the Scout Fellowship, either as Chairman or ADC. See me for more information. There must be someone out there who could help!

This is the last edition of Scouting About before Christmas, so can I be the first to offer my best wishes for an enjoyable Christmas holiday and a restful New Year
Keep up the Good Work!

Dean Jefferys
District Commissioner

News/Events...



Tribute to Ronald B. Sorrell 1925 – 2004

Ron was born in Clacton on 6th September 1925 and when he was quite young he moved with his parents to Highams Park, where he eventually became a Scout with the 35th Epping Forest Group.

He was called up for active service in the army in November 1943 and served in mainland Europe and Palestine, returning to civilian life in 1947. Ron and Marjorie met at a Fencing Club in Walthamstow and were married in 1950. They moved to their new home in Isis Drive in 1954.

Shortly afterward Ron was asked to 'help out' with the 1st Cranham (All Saints) Group. In August 1957 he was approached by the Vicar and the DC to become involved in the opening of a new Group to be called the 1st Cranham Park St. Luke's Group, where he became a very successful Group Scout Leader. As the head of this thriving Group, he could teach us all a few things about leader recruitment. His Group was always well-staffed and had two packs and two troops, this being before the formation of Beavers. The Group later became 2nd Cranham.

In addition to being GSL, he was appointed ADC Leader Training in 1971, and tutored on numerous Scout Advanced Wood Badge Courses held on the London Training Ground at Gilwell. In 1973 he was appointed Borough Commissioner for Havering, an appointment he held until 1993. In 1978 he subsequently became District Commissioner for Hornchurch.

On relinquishing his warrant in 1988, Ron was appointed County Treasurer for Greater London North East and for Greater London as a whole.

The value of Ron's service was recognised in 1995 by the award of the Silver Wolf, the highest award for Good Services to the movement; the unrestricted gift of the Chief Scout, awarded

“in recognition of services of the most exceptional character”.

Ron's last attendance at a District event was on the occasion of the District's 70th Anniversary celebration in May 2003, when in company with the present District Commissioner and two other former D.C.s, he helped to cut the cake. Photographs to commemorate the occasion are still held on the District website.

In addition to his interest in Scouting, Ron was a Freemason, President and Treasurer of the Province of Essex Masonic Bowlers and a member of PROBUS. His funeral was held on 19th October at South Essex Crematorium where many of his friends filled the chapel, with others standing outside listening on loud speakers, to pay their respects.

Our sympathies are with his wife, Marjorie at this difficult time.

Ed Body.



Lads'n Dads ...

2nd Elm Park's Lads & Dad's Camp 2004

Well another month meant another camp at 2EP, and October saw our annual Lads & Dads Camp.

We stuck with tradition and held the camp at Belchamps Scout Camp in Rayleigh. We again also joined forces with 1st Elm Park and the Centurion Explorer Unit, meaning that once again this was gonna be a big one.

We eventually had 46 people on the camp and due to the help of the Leaders, Scouts and family members all working together, along with the weather just about holding off, the weekend went without a hitch.

Thursday night saw the majority of the tentage go up in preparation for the masses, as well as a visit to Tesco filling over two trolleys worth of shopping. Both 2EP and 1EP met at our hall to make sure everyone had a lift to the site and off we went. The Friday evening was simply a case of get your gear in place and then the usual Lads versus Dads in a wide game. This was followed by supper (a few too many hot dogs) and bed.

Saturday morning was filled with 3 on site activities, one after another with the 46 of us split into three activity groups. After the pioneering, peddle karts and rifle shooting it was lunch, followed by a trip to the local swimming pool. You know how you can never find a changing room, well try it with over 40 people going in at the same time. The afternoon brought our first rain of the weekend, with about an hours worth. But 2nd Elm Park being what as we are, used this to our advantage. Lead by me, Sug8 and Pinto, we all jumped in our waterproofs, coated ourselves in washing up liquid and proceeded to see how far we could launch ourselves down the big hill at the back of the site..... Nearly 13 meters was the record!! The menu for this weekend was kept as simple as possible with bangers, mash and beans for Saturday dinner. The evening again saw the traditional camp fire run by the Pinto and Sug8. Again followed by supper and bed.

Then the day I hate, the day that all of those tents have got to come down. Even so I had decided that we would still pack the activities in, in the same format of the three groups. This meant that the campers had an hour on wall climbing, an hour on the assault course and every ones other hour would be helping to break camp. This worked well in that there were always at least 15 - 20 people clearing the site ready for 15:00. Come 13:00, 99% of the work was done and so we had our lunch and hit the road about an hour earlier than planned as the rain was looking to set in for the day.

Not the first Lads & Dads I've run, but definitely the most enjoyable and successful. As long as you pack your programme, as the Dads are harder to entertain than the lads, and realise that the Leaders are probably going to have to do the majority of the cooking, this is a reasonably simple camp to run. So why not give it a go at your Troop / Group.

STUART BARHAM -2nd Elm Park Scout Leader,-Hornchurch District Scout Leader

Hayling Island 2004

This year 13 or 15 happy campers from Hornchurch District (depending on what part of the weekend you look at) descended upon Hayling island - to be exact the Mill Rythe holiday camp for a fun filled 70s 80s weekend featuring the rubbetes and vogue?

Accommodation was in single twin or double rooms all heated with en suite, tea making facilities (for the elderly) (me) and hairdryers for the ladies and Scott. Food was good, company good, entertainment good. I won't bore you all with minute by minute details of the fun that went on although some will be very pleased I haven't.

For **2005** make a note of the following details.

Back to Hayling Island for the Abba weekend (no not the real ones) when from Friday 21st October until Monday 24th . Half board commences with dinner on the Friday and finishes with breakfast on the Monday.

Open to all with the cost being:-

£105 pounds this includes your own very special polo shirt in a discreet lime green with lettering and a start for the first couple of rounds of drinks.

To book: send cheque or cash through letter box to me no later than the 21st January 2005.

Any questions phone me e mail me or buy me a drink in the Optimist on Mondays or Thursdays.

Jim Berry—DDC

Troop Talk...



Scout Section Report

Before proceeding with my report I would firstly like to thank Andy Rice for the time he took to hand over to me the voluminous paperwork that seems to trail behind every role in Scouting!

This is my first article in Scouting About since taking over the reins as ADC in September. It naturally takes some time to get the old feet under the table and I am extremely grateful to all the DSL's who kindly agreed to continue their good work in the District and have carried me along so far!

For those who maybe don't know me, I have been a member of the movement since 1973 when I was invested as a Cub into the 7th Hornchurch (yes I am that old!) and have held various adult appointments over the last too many years to count, but circa 17, in various Groups (working on the principle that a moving target is harder to hit)!

Now to business – Starting on a high note, congratulations to 2nd Elm Park in their recent County victory at the Orienteering event. The District entered all 6 teams that took part! It just goes to show that Hornchurch District still produces the best Scouting in the County!

Also well done to 1st & 2nd Cranham in the Clay Pigeon Shooting Competition.

We had our first leaders meeting on 25th October and I was pleased to see most Groups represented, a most encouraging start.

It is most important that these meetings are attended by a representative from each group as it a vital opportunity to not only receive an update on District events, but on those of County as well. Perhaps even more importantly, it is a platform to provide feedback to the District Team.

We want and need to know what you think of the events that are organized (and that's exactly what you think – no holds barred!), are they stale, good or exceptional even? Should we be looking to change or indeed drop some? Please let us know and we will take on board and incorporate your thoughts into our future event planning.

Talking of events, the calendar for the year is starting to fill up. A copy will be sent out to each Group, but an extract detailing the 1st half of 2005 is below:

District Scout Chess Competition	Saturday 22nd January
Scout Leaders Meeting	Monday 24 th January
District Swimming Gala	Saturday 5 th March
County Scout Chess Tournament	Saturday 5 th March
County Swimming Gala	Saturday 12 th March
Scout Leaders Meeting	Tuesday 19 th April
St. Georges Day Parade	Sunday 24 th April
County Scout Five – a – side	Saturday 21 st May
District Scout Camp	Weekend 27 th / 29 th May
County Water Activity Scout Camp	Weekend 3 rd / 5 th June
Scout & Explorer Scout Hiking Weekend	Weekend 18 th / 19 th June
County Scout Camp	Weekend 1 st / 3 rd July
Scout Leaders Meeting	Monday 25 th July

Full details will be sent on all of these activities nearer the time, but please make notes in your diary now before they fill up!

Also 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 we don't know ourselves; we probably do know somebody that does!

I will also be attempting to visit as many Troops during the coming months as possible. To achieve this I would be grateful if I could be sent a copy of your programme for the Autumn Term. I will always call you first to let you know my intention of visiting.

That's it for now; I look forward to reporting further on our successful Scouting together in the next issue.

Peter Seddon
ADC (Scouts)



Troop Talk...

HORNCHURCH DISTRICT HIKING WEEKEND

With twenty teams entering this years event, the Hiking Weekend is enjoying a revival, and long may it continue. In 2001 only seven teams took part, a worrying sign for the continued survival for an event that first started in 1937 and is, I'm told, the Districts oldest event and one which many scouts and leaders have fond memories of competing in.

So a decision was made to change two aspects of the format. First, the word 'Marathon' was dropped as it was felt that it could be misleading scouts into thinking that they would have to walk at least twenty six miles to achieve anything. Second, a novice section was introduced for young inexperienced teams who would stay at Skreens Park and be instructed by leaders in some basic skills and then introduced to other specific elements of the competition in the hope that they come back the following year as part of a competing team. This has proved a great success, and this year the Novices took part in the final inspection and were marked as if they had entered the main competition so that they could get a feel of what it would be like to enter the main competition.

From the visiting teams there were representatives from 1st Corringham in the Novice section and two teams from Stanford-Le-Hope Explorers which were split by 8th Hornchurch 'Gladiators'.

For the first time ever, the Hiking Weekend welcomed a Network team of Richard Pinto and Mike Suggate, but little did anyone realise that they would give the event an international flavour. Although they didn't get any clues they did do some hiking, fourteen miles to Stansted Airport ! Where after some to-ing and fro-ing between the desks of a couple of no-frills airlines they boarded a plane to Rotterdam with the requirement to present themselves for inspection at Skreens Park twenty hours later.

As per the rules, they did phone in their position at 7pm. 'Never', they are having a laugh 'It's a wind up' were just some of the thoughts being aired by the leaders as we settled down to dinner. Their appearance at the appointed hour for inspection, having hiked back from Stansted Airport confirmed their story, as did the logbook which told of their adventures and which is entitled Mike and Pinto's Grand Day Out. It certainly was !!

For me, Mike and Pinto's Dutch sojourn epitomises the sense of spirit and adventure that Scouting can offer and in their own way I hope that all the teams have sensed it too over the weekend and tell of their exploits to mates on Troop night.

Well done to all the teams that took part, hopefully they will be back next year for another great weekend.

Finally, my thanks to all the adult support, who help to make it a safe weekend for the teams and without which the event wouldn't be possible, there are too many to name here, but you know who you are.

Colin Giles

DSL

Hiking Results on the Page 7.

The 3rd Cranham are holding a Quiz Night at The Coopers' Company & Coborn School Dining Rooms on Saturday 4th December at 8 p.m Cost is £4 (£3 for under 14s) bring your own nibbles and drinks. Prize raffle and roll for a bottle too!

Order tickets from Dennis Fink on 01708

Troop Talk...



Hornchurch District Hiking Weekend

Team	Inspection	Log	Refer	Total
Scouts				
1st. Elm Park "A"	193	148	735	1076
8th. Hornchurch (St.Andrews) "A"	187	178	615	980
2nd. Elm Park 'A'	180	126	645	951
2nd. Elm Park 'C'	194	75	615	884
8th. Hornchurch (St. Georges) 'C'	172	75	500	747
2nd. Elm Park 'B'	196	110	410	716
1st. Upminster	185	155	300	640
8th. Hornchurch (St. Georges) 'B'	158	100	350	608
2nd Cranham	186	136	100	422
8th Hornchurch (St. Georges) 'A'	157	85	70	302
2nd Elm Park 'D'	180	1	30	211
Novices				
8th Hornchurch	182	100	225	507
8th Hornchurch (St. Georges) 'D'	162	100	25	287
2nd Cranham	180	35	50	265
1st Corringham	171	10	80	261
1st Upminster	191	5	25	221
Explorers				
Stanford Le-Hope 'A'	189	170	595	954
8th Hornchurch 'Gladiators'	194	98	560	852
Stanford-Le-Hope 'B'	197	60	230	487
Network - The Best	114	150	0	264



Troop Talk...

Camping with 8th.Hornchurch

Cub camp spring 2004 (condovers)

Condovers camp was fun, exciting and spectacular. Everybody enjoyed it and wants to go again.

All of the cubs slept in tents, it was cold and wet but that did not stop us "Sleeping". All of the cubs also did backwoods cooking outside but only got to do this once because of bad weather at the camp. One of the main parts of the camp was the hike to Coalhouse fort and back. The cubs also had a wonderful time making shelters, being part of a campfire and many other things. The pack learnt to put up patrol tents and take them down (all apart from akela who put his groups tent up inside out!!!) We played loads of games had a brilliant time and we all wish we could go on another camp at condovers.

Mercury cubs

The very hot week in August'

This was the time 8th Hornchurch scouts chose to have a summer camp at Thriftwood - this venue was chosen so Andrew could be close to home as his wife was heavily pregnant with Abigail Mary born in September.

A patrol from each troop attended and participated in rafting and canoeing (why do scouts seem to prefer being IN the water rather than floating on it!) A day hike, pioneering, orienteering, bivouacs, volleyball, wide game etc. as well as the usual camp tasks were also

undertaken and all scouts were instructed in and gained their camp cook badge. The whole camp was very enjoyable and worthwhile and we didn't get any of the down-pours that flooded the London Underground!

District Camping/Cooking Weekend

Always a popular event with scouts as it means camping without their troop leaders. (Why don't they want us there!) All planned with a fortnight to go. I tried, without success, to get the patrol to cook a different type of meal for the guest but no, they wanted to stay with the menu they used last year with the proviso that they had to improve their gravy-making! (I couldn't quite understand what had happened to the gravy last year). George said he would take a candelabra; this was followed by a discussion on what beverage would be best with the meal - vodka, bacardi, breezers, lager (in your dreams,boys).

Then came the news from District - sorry the event is cancelled - four days to go. Stuart Brown (St. Georges troop) and I came to the same conclusion - both troops had a keen team; all we could do was to carry on. We then had to muster a team of leaders and instructors to carry the competition through. Scott and Dean kindly volunteered to be our guests

and explorer leader, Robin, agreed to mark the event. So early Saturday morning scouts could be seen setting up camp for the weekend. It was a good weekend with one troop winning the cooking (was it the candelabra which tipped the balance?) and the other winning the camping.

As well as the skills the scouts learnt from the weekend the abiding memory in their minds will probably be the fun they had pushing each other around in shopping trolleys found on the rubbish dump! So as there were no other entries 8th Hornchurch won this event!

More District Hiking ...

Report on the District Hiking Weekend.

It was a breezy and cloudy day when 8th Hornchurch, St. Andrews scout group arrived in Skreens Park in the newly purchased minibus. Following success in 2003, in the hiking weekend, the St. Andrews competitive team were determined to retain the title of Hiking weekend champions. There were two novice teams entering as well as a competitive team and the competitive team couldn't have been better prepared. With three older scouts, all aged 13, myself, Dean Holden, Joe Ruyten and one twelve year old, George Leader we felt our team couldn't be better. Having registered we decided to plot all seventy seven clues on the map given to us. Teamwork played a key role in plotting the points as we wanted to leave as soon as possible. So with George reading the references, Joe writing the clue numbers on the stickers, myself sticking the clue numbers on the map and Dean filling up the water bottles we soon had it done. We then plotted our routecard and our estimated overnight stop off point we were now ready to go. We planned to get around 15 clues by the end of the weekend and after waiting about fifteen minutes we set off on our hike.

We hiked out of Skreens and to avoid the horrible long drive took a public footpath which took us straight to our first clue – the last collection time of a post box. From here we hiked into Roxwell where we got a further two more clues and stopped for a short break. We then took a public footpath north to Boyton Cross where we got our fourth clue (another post-box) and then hiked back in the direction of Roxwell where we saw a leader in their car. At this point it had begun to rain so out came the waterproofs but this did not dampen our spirits. We continued to hike and picked up two more clues – one at a cottage, another at a pub and then stopped for a rest at Newney Green where we had an encounter with two guard dogs. We then hiked onto Benedict Otes where we picked up another clue, and were now near our overnight stop but it was only halfway through the afternoon so therefore scrapped that plan and picked up a clue before walking down a bridleway where I discovered I had lost my mobile phone so we wasted half an hour finding that. Thankfully it was reasonably close so we continued walking, found another clue after a short downpour. We then saw another scout troop who had stopped for the night at a pub. (Only to watch the football of course. Tut tut St. Georges.) We then continued hiking and got a further clue before stopping to stay the night at Bridge Farm. (Grid reference: 614 063) By now we had got about 10 clues. The hosts were very accommodating and had two dogs who we played with as well as a trampoline which we were allowed to use. We had tea which was pot noodles and rice pudding. Following tea we washed up and wrote our log book and then went to sleep. During the night George and I didn't feel well and had to ring in to Skreens park to see if there was anything we could do. However there wasn't apart from drinking water and trying to sleep – so we did.

The next morning we woke up at seven o'clock, put our tent down, had breakfast – cereal bars and added the finishing touches to our log book before departing at nine o'clock. The two dogs were very sad to see us go whereas Joe was pleased to leave them as he has a fear of dogs which wasn't very handy as there were many guard dogs that we saw on our route.

In the space of half an hour we had got two clues and were in Willingale where we were met by two leaders in a car. (all right for the leaders in their cars!) We then walked out of Willingale in the direction of Fyfield across a public footpath called the Essex way where we got another clue. In Fyfield we got a further two clues and were now heading back to Skreens. We got another clue along the way and at the next clue we met up with another St. Georges team so we hiked with them. We got another clue and then hiked back into Willingale to pick up a clue we missed earlier, and then walked back to Skreens picking up a final clue along the way. We arrived back at Skreens Park on two o'clock where we reported for inspection.

During inspection we received 182 points out of 200 which wasn't that bad. Not as good as our fellow Explorer friends. We then got dismissed and following this we put our bags back on the minibus and left Skreens and headed back to Hornchurch as tired and weary scouts. Out of all teams we had collected the most clues

Overall 8th Hornchurch St. Andrews competitive team had walked a total of 30 km (I measured it!) and picked up a total of 22 clues, seven more than estimated. (Whether they were right was another thing.) However we went away from the weekend with a good feeling as we had collected a lot of clues, our log book was good and we had done o.k. in the inspection. Now all that remains is to wait for the result. Have we won it two years running? I hope so as it gives the scouts next year a platform to build on. One thing is for certain we had done our best and to me that is all that matters.

Matthew Everett.-8th.Hornchurch



Dist Hiking / Back to Basics...

Scout District Hiking Weekend - Novice team report

We started the competition on the Thursday night when the team (Daniel, Alex, Kieran and Glen) finished packing the kit into our rucksacks, then we went and checked if all the bits were in the tent bag (they were!)

It was Saturday we were all at the HQ making final checks to rucksacks, then we put them on top of the new scout van. Baloo (one of the cub leaders) drove us to Skreens Park. When we arrived, we were given our log-books and also our maps, we had 40 minutes to plot as many clues as we could and write our route cards out, then we were off. We had to search for churches, look through bushes and look at signposts. We kept a record of everything we did in our log book.

Daniel started with the map and got the group lost straight away but then the group found five clues and then had to go back to Skreens Park to set up camp.

The group set up camp straight away and then Daniel and Alex started cooking the food (which was pasta or pot noodle). When the food was made and everyone had eaten sufficiently everybody had a big game of football and then went to bed.

When the team woke up we had breakfast (which was porridge) then put down the tent and cleared up. Then we set off on our trip, it was the second day, we found four clues. We got very lost trying to find the back entrance of Skreens.

When we eventually arrived back at camp we got straight on the van and went home.

Kieran Persaud, Kestrels-8th.Hornchurch

Back to Basics Camp

On the 5th and 6th of June, we all went to Thriftwood Scout Camp in Brentwood. The camp was entitled 'Back to Basics' because that was what it was, as it was our first Scout Camp for six out of the nine of us that went.

When we first got there, we learned how to put up tents and dining shelters and after that, it was lunchtime. After lunch, we gathered together all of the wood for the fire - to cook dinner with, getting some from the forest and some from the woodpile. Whilst we were doing that we were also learning how to chop and saw wood into different sized chunks. For our dinner we cooked pasta, with diced chicken and a Chicken Tonight sauce and we had fruit pies and custard for desert.

Once we had washed up, we played cricket and then we learnt how to light and use Tilly lamps. We then went off to camp fire, which is always good fun. When we came back from camp fire, we played capture the flag in the woods, when it was dark. We then arrived back at the field we were camping in to find out that some of the leaders had looked us hotdogs and made us teas, coffees and hot chocolates, so we had them and went to bed.

On the Sunday morning we made breakfast - cereals, bread and butter and a cooked breakfast, which consisted of bacon, eggs, spaghetti and sausages. Then we played football and a game in which you had to use your strength to get the basket from one end to the other. We then made lunch in 'backwoods' style, which is cooking without using any kitchen utensils. We made jacket potatoes, gammon with pineapple and cheese, and kebabs. For afters we made chocolate bananas, Rolo apples and egg and raisin oranges.

We toasted marshmallows afterwards, and then we put away the dining shelters and tents and took the rest of the wood back to the woodpile.

At the end of the day, we paid a visit to the tuck shop. It was a very enjoyable camp and a great introduction to Scouts for most of us.

Darren Nicholls, Falcons-8th.Hornchurch

Explorer Exploits...

First Explorer Newsletter

Dear All,

Welcome to the first ever edition of Hornchurch District Explorer Scout News. I hope that this publication will help to improve communication between the District and the Explorer Scouts themselves.

This first newsletter contains information of the activities due to come up through the Autumn term which are also run along side the programmes provided to you by your Explorer Scout Leaders.

I hope you all enjoyed the summer break.

Hornchurch Explorer Scouts: Where are we now?

Well since the launch of Explorer Scouting Hornchurch has come a long way. Our District currently has four Unit's each running their own individual programme's to meet the needs to their members.

Did you know: Explorer Scouts are registered at a District level and although will normally attend one particular Unit, you may go to any other Unit within the District if they are running a programme activity that you like.

The Young Leaders Unit is primarily designed to cater for those individuals who wish to train together and socialise whilst also working within another section around the District as a Young Leader.

So as I said above if you wish to attend another Unit for a particular activity they are running just contact the Leader of that Unit and you will be welcome to join in.

The Units within are District are listed below with the Unit Leader's contact details;

- **Centurion ESU**

Monday evenings 7.30pm @ 2nd Elm Park HQ, The Paddock, Wood Lane, Elm Park
Explorer Scout Leader – Kevin Cooper 01708 471800

- **Gladiator ESU**

Monday evenings 7.30pm @ 8th Hornchurch HQ, Chelmsford Drive, Hornchurch
Explorer Scout Leader – Robin Gillett 01708 550833

- **Dragon ESU**

Monday evenings 7.45pm @ 3rd Upminster HQ, Rear off Methodist Church, Upminster
Explorer Scout Leader – Mike Bacon 01708 781916

- **Young Leaders Unit**

Every other Tuesday evening 8.00pm @ District HQ, The Paddock, Wood Lane, Elm Park
Explorer Scout Leader – Dean Jefferys 01708 473722

Forthcoming Events

Sreknew Challenge – 13th/14th November

A new event to the District Calendar this year, this event is open to teams of Explorer Scouts and the Scout Network. We are also opening this event to any Scouts who are working on their Moving on Award.

This event is a night hike based challenge with incident bases along the routes. Teams will be blindfolded and dropped at different locations and then follow a set route back to the base camp.

Points will be awarded for completion of the bases and also on the length of time it takes to complete the challenge.

This is an ideal training event for those working towards their Chief Scouts Platinum or Diamond Awards.

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Exploits continued ...

- **Venue**- Gilwell Park Campsite + Surrounding area
- **Date** - Sat 13th November to Sun 14th November 2004.
- **Time** - Arrive and Register from 7pm onwards
- **Teams** - 4 people per team
- **Uniform** - Polo Shirts & Scarves to be worn

More details are to be issued in a small booklet shortly, if you don't receive them please contact either the DESC or DESA.

Winter Camp @ Gilwell Park – 7th/8th/9th January 2005

Yes sorry to be looking ahead already into January 2005, but we need to book our places on this very popular event.

The Gilwell Park annual Winter camp takes place over the second weekend of January in cold conditions. Many Scout Troop's and Explorer Scout Unit's brave the cold in their tents just to take part in all the activities laid on throughout the weekend by the site.

Last year a number of Explorer's from our District along with some Scout Troop's took up the challenge and we are offering the same thing open again to all Explorers within the District. We will camp as one big District Explorer Unit, catering can be arranged through the site or some Explorer's even made their own arrangements in the kitchen tent we set-up.

Don't worry if none of your Unit Leader's are attending we have enough Leader's from the District around to look after things.

- **Venue** - Gilwell Park Campsite
- **Date** - Friday 7th Jan to Sunday 9th Jan 2005
- **Cost** - £15.00 per person (This does not include your food)

If you are interested in attending this camp then please contact either the DESC or DESA for full details and a booking form.

As a District we have to submit our booking to Gilwell Park by 1st December 2004 so please get your bookings into us early.

Clay Pigeon Shooting Competition

Thirty One Scouts and Explorer Scouts took part and the rain held off till the end of the morning.

With nobody to deputize for Dean who was unable to attend the prizes were awarded by Alan Anthony who runs the Crowfield Gun Club who complemented the boys for their good behaviour.

Winners and Runner Ups in each Section were awarded trophies to keep and the person with the overall highest score won the District Shield to hold for one year.

The scores are out of 25.

Scout Section

1st Patrick Hanson (16)-1st Cranham

2nd-Nicholas Cox (15)-2nd Cranham

Explorers-

1st & The District Shield-Alex Judd-(21)

(Centurions Unit)

2nd Tied-Stuart Dixon (19) Gladiators Unit

Riky Patel (19) Centurions Unit.

Melvyn Gallagher



Picture shows Alex Judd being presented with the District Shield by Alan Anthony.

Essex Jamboree 2004...

The Essex Jamboree was the biggest Scout and Guide Camp held in the U.K. this year and the 3rd Cranham were involved in its planning at an early stage running the Clay shooting activity for over 6,000 campers and 1,000 staff as well as holding our troop summer camp there as well!

Our Scouts were camping under the guidance of Jon Cable, Jon Low and Sumaeria on a very small site so tentage was kept to a minimum. Their sub camp was named Demeter after the Greek earth Goddess and was one often named after different Gods, our name soon got changed to Dementia !

Each sub-camp had a dedicated staff for administration and to organize on site games and competitions for the campers. Each day they were given tickets for the more exciting sporting activities from go-carts to quad bikes ,clay shooting and sailing. They took part in over thirty others from scrap heap challenge to kites, volley ball and crafts.

Our party had a small contingent from the 1st Cranham together with our D.C. as neighbours but this was compensated for as our other neighbours were Girl Guides who quickly became friendly with our Scouts and their Leaders were our guests at a formal dinner we hosted.

On Wednesday the retiring Chief Scout toured the camp and remarked on then loudness of Jon Cable's flip flops that became a feature of the camp .Our Scouts and Explorer Scouts all enjoyed themselves and learned that Scouting is a worldwide brother and sisterhood.

Our other contribution was the Clay shooting team most being connected with our Group including Matthew Perring who is now Firearms Officer for the British Association for Shooting & Conservation who sponsored this event with equipment and purchases of shells and clays .Over the week we expended over 10,000 clay targets and 15,000 shells and our activity proved very popular .The 200 badges I had made that were presented to those who hit all five targets were elusive to win and very popular too but one young Scout won five of them!

The big kids (Leaders) wanted them too but we stopped giving them out to those over 18.

We had media interest too with a five minute slot on B.B.C. Essex explaining the sport and a film crew making a promo video on activities for the Scout Assn..

We hijacked the Chief Scout when making his tour and although he declined the offer to

have a go as "I do a lot of shooting in Northern Ireland". He posed for photographs, this

being his last major engagement before his retirement on September 5th, his very first engagement also being at the Essex Jamboree.

Hoping to see more Homchurch Scouts at the Jamboree in four years time at Screens Park.

Melvyn Gallagher.



Melvyn Gallagher at the Essex Jamboree with Chief Scout.

More Jamboree...

It all seems such a long time ago now but on a very hot July morning 1st Cranham and 3rd Cranham went off to the Essex Jamboree which was held at Devereux Farm, near Walton on Naze.

6,000 Scouts from as far afield as Canada, Australia, Africa and most of Europe were there, plus nearly 5,000 day visitors on the Wednesday. 1st Cranham scouts quickly made friends with some American scouts and it was a complete shock when a young man of 13 arrived at our site at 8.00 and said 'Hi there would you like me to help you cook breakfast' He had been up cooked and washed up and in true Cranham fashion we were just about awake!!

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Essex and Blackpool !...

This is the fourth Jamboree we have attended and by far the biggest – I urge every Troop to try and attend one as it does bring home to Scouts that we are a WORLDWIDE organisation.

Those intrepid Scout leaders from 2EP decided to come as well direct from their own camp so we ended up with more leaders than Scouts but it is such an easy way to camp all you have to do is feed them.

Highlight of the week was walking to Walton and getting Jim's wheelchair stuck in the sand.

Unfortunately we are not going to Eurojam nobody is silly enough to pay that money but Norjam 2006 here we come!!

Linda Thorogood-1st.Cranham

Blackpool

This exchange has been going on now for 6 years and is truly a great event in our calendar. Jes Birkett ex 1st Ups Scout Leader brings Scouts to Upminster in the Spring & we go to 1st Carleton in the Autumn to see the Blackpool Lights.

This year was the first for me and I was really looking forward to it and it has to be said it lived up to all my expectations; 6 miles of fantastic light displays the Scouts were mesmerised "Cor look at that"!! Echoed through the mini bus time & time again.

The next day's wonder was to "Blackpool Pleasure Beach". The Scouts dashed around deciding which & what to give their attention to. The "Pepsi Max" was high on the list for some but not all, 267 feet high in places and reaches up to

85 m.p.h in places, not for the faint hearted. The lads had a grand time.

In the evening we visited the local radio station "Radio Wave" on 96.5FM and what an exciting evening that turned out to be. Andy Mitchell, the News Editor and Scout Leader at a Blackpool Group, was great. He explained everything to do with broadcasting and showed us lots of inside tips. We were on the point of departure when John Pye, DJ of the evening came into the studio telling Andy that he had a caller on the line with some breaking news. He transferred the call and Andy interviewed the caller as the Scouts looked on in awe. The caller living in Mcauley Ave reported that just down from his house was a live hostage situation going on, there were armed Police in riot gear the whole works, we could hear the police running down the street; the lad's eyes were popping out of their heads. Andy taped the phone call, thanked the man then phoned the

Police station to authenticate the story. Sure enough there was a domestic that had gone badly wrong. Andy edited the callers interview to eliminate the er's and ah's and interrupted the outgoing programme with a news flash.

He explained to the Scouts that he would further refine the report and put it out on the 8am news the next day. Really exciting stuff. Of course now the lads wish to be reporters, Radio is not just music its real cool stuff. And yes they did listen to the live broadcast the following morning.

After that adventure all seemed quiet. We flew kites on the beach at Fleetwood, went to the National Football Museum at Preston North End Football Club, which was free and really excellent. All in all four wonderful days, Scouting giving Lads great memories

.I.M.Taylor-Morley (Group Scout Leader)

