



Hornchurch District  
Scout Association

www.hornchurchscouts.org.uk

# "Scouting About"

## 2nd.Elm Park Trip To Iceland 2005-3 Very Different Days...

The following tells of the first 3 days of our trip to Iceland, and shows just how different the days were. It would take far too long to tell you all that went on for the entire week. So in briefly - After the following, we visited the Blue Lagoon ( a huge naturally geo thermally heated pool in the middle of nowhere), we went Whale Watching off of the South West coast of Iceland, where we saw at least three whales and visited Puffin Island which holds the most Puffins per land mass than anywhere else in the World. We also spent a day in Reykjavik, which is the Worlds most Northerly capital city, along with a reasonably long hike through the lava fields that surround Hafnarjordur, on which we found an authentic message in a bottle and got in contact with the Icelandic school girl who sent it. We also visited the local naturally heated outdoor swimming pool for a real swim after the Blue Lagoon, as well as spending some good times at the hostel socialising and playing various games on the campsite behind the building. WHAT A WEEK !!!!..... anyway here's what we got up to on the first three days:

### Day 1 & 2:

Well, after nearly two years of blood, sweat and tears, we finally did it.... 2<sup>nd</sup> Elm Park spent a week long Summer Camp in Iceland, taking 41 Scouts and 16 Leaders to Hraunbyrgi Scout Hostel in Hafnarfjordur, which is the third largest city in Iceland, about 14 miles outside of Reykjavik.

The week started in the worst possible way, as due to fog at Keflavik airport, we found ourselves stranded at Stansted airport for over 11 hours, through the whole of the Saturday night. 41 Scouts in a small airport with no sleep and nothing to do..... Oh it was a wonderful night!!!! In a scene similar to what you see on those Airport documentaries, at one point the airline rep told us that the likelihood was that we simply weren't going to get to Iceland and would have to claim the flight money back when we got home. At this point I walked away and left the stereotypical grumpy travellers to have their moan and shout, whilst I was honestly trying not to cry.

Needless to say, after the night of hell and with the Scouts actually being remarkably well behaved all things considered, we were eventually in the air and three hours later prepared to land in Keflavik.

THEN..... the scariest moment of my life, and certainly the Scout's lives. We came into land and due to extremely low fog, as we emerged from the zero visibility, it become apparent that we were just meters from landing on a row of buildings. You can imagine the worry as we and luckily the pilot noticed!!! and we were then thrown back in our seats as we climbed at an unbelievable angle for a good 30 seconds. We then heard from the pilot, who explained that we would try once more and if we can't land safely we would have to land at another airport. With our coach meeting us at Keflavik, could this get any worse??!! Our second attempt, thankfully saw us land safely and finally our trip of a lifetime could start for real.

### Day 3:

Before we left, we had planned to do nothing too specific on the Sunday in case we experienced any delays..... Good Decision. With a fantastic day planned for Monday, our dramas so far would soon be forgotten. This day saw us, with our guide for the day, travel first to a small volcano which had left a rather large hole in the ground which is now a lake all year round. (continued on page 6/7)

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Leaders

Cub Scout  
Leaders

Scout  
Leaders

Explorer Scout  
Leaders



Welcome to another exciting scouting year. It was especially nice to see even more of you join us at Gilwell for the Annual Reunion. This is proving to be an excellent curtain raiser for the year ahead – put the date in your diary for 2006 now (it's always the first weekend in September).

The weekend after I attended The Scout Association's National AGM held at Regents College in London. I left feeling inspired by the success of Eurojam, following an excellent presentation. However in the evening I attended an even better presentation about the recent trip to Kenya my members of Gladiator ESU in association with Hornchurch Guides and Saltire Youth Group. It was an honour to hear how successful the trip had been and about the impact that the project was making on young Kenyan lives. Congratulations to all the young people involved and especially to Charles and Sandra Cox for masterminding it all.

The recent District AGM was a fantastic success. Again a good speaker in the form of Steve Peck from Gilwell, and superbly hosted by 1<sup>st</sup> Rainham. With 72 people in attendance, this was our best turnout at a District AGM since 1963! Thank you to everyone who attended.

I was also delighted to ask Marjorie Sorrell to present the inaugural Ron Sorrell Shield to Roger Huggett, Scout Leader of 2<sup>nd</sup> Cranham. This new annual award will be made '*to the adult leader or supporter who has demonstrated in an outstanding way the ability to motivate and inspire young people*'. Roger has made a fantastic contribution to the life of his Troop and Group and the award is very well deserved.

As I write this article I have recently returned from the County Jack Petchey Awards Evening. It was a pleasure to see so many of our young people recognised for the excellent contribution that they make – and especially nice to see so many Explorers present. On that note, I am pleased to announce the opening of our fifth Explorer Unit – which will predominately serve the Cranham area. Numbers already look very encouraging. Contact Scott Wilderspin for more details.

As you all know, we own a quarter of Thriftwood Scout Centre in Brentwood. The Centre offers an excellent array of activities in well managed woodlands. Our only gripe over the years has been the state of the toilet facilities. Well relief is at hand (excuse the pun) as building work has just started on the first of our proposed four new blocks. This one will be sited by the Sapper Lake Carpark and will include ample toilets and showers for all. At a cost of just over £100,000 this is a sizable investment for the site, but one that is essential if we are to remain competitive. Building work should be completed by Easter.

We have been pleased to welcome Kevin Williamson to the team as our new ADC (Cub Scouts). Kevin has already settled in and has been seen out and about all over the place. Indeed as part of a closer working pattern with all the ADCs Kevin has been helping to support two Groups who we see as our key priority in the next few months. Thank you to those groups who have been so willing to take on board our support and guidance – the only way is up! Before we know it, it will be 2007 and we will all be celebrating 100 years of Scouting. We cannot afford to rest on our laurels and therefore a small core team has been formed to look into the feasibility of a large scale District weekend for all sections. Plans are at a very early stage, but the hope is that every Section and every Group will wish to play their part. Let's make 2007 a year to remember – a year when we all came together to collectively enjoy the game of scouting, and to use it as a springboard for even bigger and better growth in the future! Watch this space for further details.

This is the last edition of Scouting About before Christmas, so may 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 D.C.



Well something went wrong it did not rain at Hargreaves this year, the home of Kubadoo.

It was so good to see so many Beavers there on yes a sunny day in October, they made pancakes, learnt rope tricks, had goes on bouncy castles, and so many activites to keep them all amused.Thank you leaders for taking your Beavers there I know it is not an easy place or park.

We now look forward to our Christmas Party and Pantomime.

We now have more Beavers than ever before - so hopefully next year we will be seeing groups open their second colonies.

HAVE A HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A HEALTHY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.

**LINDA THOROGOOD - A.D.C BEAVERS**

### **KUBADOO 2005**

I visited Kubadoo and there were Hundreds of cubs and beavers, the theme was Cowboys. At Kubadoo there was a tent where you could make your own pancakes, I had six pancakes! There was a bouncy castle which almost came down on top of me! We had lunch in a forest and I took some Beavers with me to explore the forest. We also went on a blind trail and panned for Gold nuggets, I found two. The Beavers and I toasted some marshmallows. I ended the day by being thrown off the bucking bronco. It was a great day out I had a lot of fun Thank you to the Leaders who made it possible.

**Thomas Messer - 8th Hornchurch Dragon Pack**



### **Summer Camp 2005- Scouts**

Summer camp for 2005 was a very enjoyable experience. A packed programme was in place for the six scouts that went on the trip to Belchamps Campsite in Hockley, near Southend. Activities on site included volleyball, two trips to the great assault course (which included an extreme soaking via a water pistol from Dave),

football (another soaking was in order but this time from the skies), orienteering, cricket and various wide games, including a new game involving finding CDs in the woods. One of the days was mainly taken up by the hike, which took place a few miles away from the campsite. The scouts split into two teams with the younger ones being helped along by Dave and Andrew and the older ones braving it out on their own. The younger ones hiked about five miles with the older ones doing double the distance, so a trip to the tuck shop was needed when we arrived back at the campsite! The day was rounded off when we all gathered around one of the tables for Dave to teach us a puzzling game involving triangles (some of us still haven't worked it out!). There were plenty of meals cooked during the five days at camp. One of the themes was 'backwoods' cooking and we cooked lots of new things throughout the week like large burgers, cheesy hot dogs and jumbo hot dogs, egg potatoes and raisin and sugar filled cooking apples. But by far the best 'backwoods' cooking activity was when we dug a trench about six inches deep underground and filled it with small sticks (kindling). We then laid down two ovens and placed a margherita and pepperoni pizza in each oven, with great tasting results. Afterwards, we cooked sugar filled bananas using the hot embers from the fire. On one night the scouts had fish and chips as a break from all of their hard work!

So a great camp was had by all, with lots of things to do the whole time. All I can say is bring on 2006!

**Darren Nicholls. APL -8th.Hornchurch**





### ***Kubadoo 2005***

Hargreaves without the rain? I never thought it possible. In the past I have always maintained that if you arrange an event at Hargreaves then don't invite me...it always rains when I go there ... until this year at Kubadoo.

8:00am - lots to do, Cubs and Beavers bases to set up and equipment to drop off. Site selected, equipment offloaded, just need some help...ah, there's Stuart Dickson from the Gladiator Explorer Unit ... successfully roped in to help ... thanks Stuart.

9:00am – by now most leaders have turned up with Pete Allen constructing his Wild West Pancake base, Linda Thorogood and Sharon Moore busily learning knots to test the Cubs on, Jan Luscombe testing her 'bang guns' and Graham Crossman erecting a greasy pole to exacting health and safety standards.

10:00am – Cubs and Beavers arrive in droves. An expected thousand or so youngsters to be unleashed on the 12 Districts and their bases. As it turned out the official figures are:

704 Cubs

271 Beavers

300 Leaders and youngsters helping

Plus – 5 Mayors or their deputies.

What a magnificent turn out!!!

And what a day it turned out to be; everywhere you looked youngsters were obviously enjoying themselves immensely...and the not so young as well with one or two trying their luck on the bucking bronco and the greasy pole. Well, no reports of food poisoning and no great injuries on the pioneering poles, apart from a bit of hurt pride here and there. So thanks to all at Hornchurch District who contributed to making the day a success.

**Kevin Williamson  
ADC Cubs**



Cubs do battle!

### **Kubadoo badge.**

Well done to Lewis Bruniges of 8th Hornchurch JUPITER Cubs for designing the winning entry for this year's County Kubadoo badge. Out of the whole of GLNE Lewis's superb design was chosen. At Kubadoo he met the Havering Mayor and was presented with a special framed certificate and badge.



**District Hiking Weekend**

The event was held over the weekend of 18 / 19<sup>th</sup> of June, 2 days which proved to some of the hottest we have had all year.

As in previous years we were joined by Teams from Stanford-le-Hope District who competed for the Visitor's Trophy. For our District 2 trophies were up for grabs, the District Shield for the Scout section and the Malcolm Reagan (memorial cheeseboard) for the Explorers.

In total 20 teams competed in the "main events" with further teams walking as "Novices" for experience.

A big thank you goes to the plethora of **Table of Results** leaders and helpers assisted with the **Visitors Trophy**

marking of logbooks, touring around in cars and generally ensuring that all teams were OK. Without your invaluable help this event would simply not happen.

Especially important this year was the supply of additional water.

As you can see from the attached table there were some extremely high scores this year especially given the high temperatures.

Well done everyone.

Our hearty congratulations go to:

1<sup>st</sup> Upminster "A" for winning the District trophy,

8<sup>th</sup> Hornchurch "C" for gaining the Explorer Trophy and,

Zenith Explorers for winning the Visitors Trophy.

I hope to see those Novice teams in the main event next year, the standard was very high and their scores were not too far away from the teams in the main event.

And of course I also hope to see a determined defence of their respective titles by this year's winners.

Looking forward to next year which I believe will be the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this event.

Peter Seddon  
ADC (Scouts)

Team	Points	Position	Time
Zenith	819	1	13.04
2nd Corringham	D 461	2	13.09
2nd Corringham	A 400	3	13.07
1st Horndon on the Hill	374	4	12.59
1st Corringham	338	5	13.05
1st Thors Oak	309	6	13.05

**Malcolm Reagan Trophy (Explorers)**

Team	Points	Position	Time
8th Hornchurch	C 669	1	13.00
Gladiators	A Retired	-	-
Gladiators	B Retired	-	-

**Hornchurch District Trophy (Scouts)**

Team	Points	Position	Time
1st Upminster	A 670	1	13.02
1st Elm Park	628	2	13.16
2nd Cranham	B 619	3	13.05
2nd Elm Park	A 572	4	13.01
1st Cranham	535	5	13.00
8th Hornchurch	A 494	6	13.08
2nd Elm Park	B 467	7	13.00
2nd Cranham	A 433	8	13.05
8th Hornchurch	B 415	9	13.03
2nd Elm Park	C Disqual	-	-
2nd Elm Park	D Disqual	-	-

nb Novice Teams are not included in the above.



### **District 5 - a side Football Competition**

12 teams competed in this years competition in which 21 matches were played. The atmosphere was one of fairness and a great deal of fair spirit was shown.

There were no send-offs and no bookings and certainly better football than the National side managed later in the day!

I would like to thank the referees and scouters who arranged the fixtures and all 60 scouts who took part.

The winners were 8th.Hornchurch (St.Andrews) with the runners up being 1st.South Hornchurch.

Dan Aherne - DSL.

### **2nd.Elm Park -Iceland 2005-continued...**

On our way to the volcano we managed to get a look in the distance at Hekla, the most active volcano in Iceland. Visible only due to the amazing weather, which had been good for the past week apparently..... that's what a sunburned ( yep, sunburned in Iceland !! ) Explorer Leader told us at the volcano.

After the volcano we were back in the coach and listening to our driver as we headed off to a small waterfall ( I didn't catch the name ), where again we would be able to get out and walk right up to this amazing sight Although the tour guide described this as small, the picture doesn't really do it justice, as this really was a very impressive spectacle.

Back on the coach again, and off to the our next waterfall. This time it was the Daddy, as we were going to see Gullfoss, the third biggest waterfall in Europe. We arrived at the waterfall and even from a long distance we were getting wet from the spray. It was also apparent that one false step and one of the lads or more likely Grim could easily fall in. As there was a large plateau that jutted right out into the waterfall. This lead to us getting into teams and making sure that the PL's / APL's ( all adults in this case ) kept a very close eye on the lads. We were soon down to the edge and the camera's were doing overtime. To see the Scouts faces at these types of scenes was making the trip all worth while. Again, with the weather being so idyllic, some of the many shots we have of Gullfoss, contain some excellent rainbows in the spray, and this was so far the highlight of the day.



### 2EP Iceland 2005 pt 3

After this it was back on to the coach and time to head for Geysir, the site of Iceland's geo thermal fields and where, not surprisingly, you find Geysir's ( they are actually named after this area ). This was also where we stopped for lunch..... outside in the sun!!

After lunch it was over to the Geysir's and they were well worth the wait. Unfortunately the largest of the Geysir's in this area hasn't been active for about 30 years, but once we saw what Strokkur ( the largest Geysir in Europe ) had offer instead, it was far from disappointing!! We approached the rather large hole in the floor and watched with everyone else, not really knowing what to expect..... Until the hole turned into what can only be described as a large blister ready to pop, and it did!!!

Below, in order is the sequence of Strokkur erupting. This was a stunning, and at the same time, very surreal event and one that we stayed for about an hour to watch again and again. Strokkur erupts at least once every 5 - 7 minutes, with each of the eruptions being very different, with varying height and amounts of water being thrown into the air.

Most of the lads ( and some of the less mature Leaders ) took the opportunity to stand in the way of the spray and got soaked through..... hey the coach driver didn't seem to mind. Where I was standing, I hadn't realised that the water after eruption ran that way, and only found out when it was too late!! The water had run over my feet and burnt right through my trainers and socks, burning my poor big toe, as I looked like a mad man hopping around and pulling my shoe and sock off.

( the originally empty hole starts to fill with bubbling water the large blister of boiling water forms in the hole and finally the blister pops far from the largest eruption we saw, but still impressive )

A quick look round the gift shop and we were back on the road and off to Pingvellir National Park. This is the largest National Park in Iceland, and the area where the two tectonic plates ( the mid Atlantic Ridge..... sounded intelligent there for a second ) meet and are in fact pulling Iceland apart, moving at least a centimetre every year. This is also the location where the Icelandic parliament used to meet OUTDOORS. Again, I wasn't sure if the Scouts would appreciate the scale of these tectonic plates and what effect they are having on the area, but again I was pleased that they seemed completely in ore of the sight and were full of questions and intrigue.

We were dropped off at the base of the parliament circle and grabbed some pictures of this and decided to invite the tour guide into the shots, which he seemed most confused by, but at the same time chuffed that we'd asked We took the short walk between the two plates which technically separate Europe and America, and at the top the Leaders decided to play a joke on Grimmi. We pretended that one of the Scouts had fallen down one of the crevices and screamed for Grim to help. His response was, as you can imagine, far from rapid, but once he saw Charlie laying there, he was fooled for just a moment!!

After seeing how easy it was for the lads to get down these caves and crevices, Pinto, Paul, and Bruce decided to go deeper and in fact went so deep they came back with hand fulls of snow and ice..... quite unbelievable considering the temperature at ground level was well in the high sixties.

ALL OF THIS IN JUST ONE DAY!!!! meant that we'd completely forgotten the riggers of Stansted and nearly crashing in the plane. Coupled with the rest of the week, this was a fantastic experience and although I may have occasionally got slightly stressed, I don't think there's been any lasting brain damage..... Or has there !!!!.....

Stuart Barham SL

2EP





**James Samuel Harle** 1929-2005



It is with deep regret that I have to announce the death last night of Jim Harle, former Scout Leader, Group Scout Leader and District Chairman. He was 76.

Jim began his warranted service in 1967 as an Assistant Scout Leader with the 8th Hornchurch Scout Group. In 1985 his talents were recognised with his appointment as Group Scout Leader, a role he held for 6 years, playing a key role in ensuring the ongoing success of the group over many years and being the first GSL to welcome Beaver Scouts into the Group. Roger Winston persuaded Jim to come back into the active fold as District Chairman. Being District Chairman is not an easy task, but Jim carried it out with enthusiasm, tact and devotion to duty, as he did with all his earlier scouting roles. He stepped down in 1999, handing over to Eddy Body. Jim was recognised for his service to Scouting by the award of the Long Service Decoration and by The Medal of Merit – awarded for outstanding service to scouting. He was a man of integrity, with a passion for scouting and a true belief in the good that the movement can achieve. His services both to his Group and to the District as a whole can be seen by the fact that both continue to be such strong forces for good. The movement as a whole will be all the poorer without his presence. Our thoughts are with his wife and his family at this difficult time.

Dean Jefferys

*District Commissioner for Hornchurch*

**New Flags for 1st.Cranham**

Mr. Adrian Vincent of local funeral directors Frank Rivett & Sons Ltd. is pictured presenting a cheque for £275.00 to 1st Cranham Scout Group at their recent AGM and presentation evening.

Scouts and parents had organised a fund raising disco in March to raise money towards the purchase of new Cub and Scout Flags and Mr. Vincent had agreed to match the money raised pound for pound.

Mr Vincent said, he hoped that the flags would last as long as the previous ones - 61 years!!

(Pictured with Mr. Vincent are Cub Leader Sharon Moore and Scout Leader Scott Wilderspin together with Cub Scout Christopher Rogers and Scout Michael Gibbs.)



### **District Clay Shooting Competition**

The annual competition took place on October 30th and the weather kept fine all morning (for once). The turnout was much lower than last year with five Troops taking part and the District's four Explorer Units could only muster four competitors perhaps the rest were all in church!

As usual it was a 25 bird contest (do not worry they are not real birds but only circular discs of pitch and chalk) and the results were very close which were as follows:-

**Scouts** , 1st-James King(3rd Cranham) 2nd-Nicholas Cox(2nd Cranham)

**Explorers**, 1st Alex Judd(Dragon & Young Leader 3rd Cranham) 2nd-Stuart Dickson(Gladiators & 8th Hornchurch)

All the above received engraved trophies donated by Mel Gallagher and Alex Judd received the District Shield all of which were presented by Roger Huggett on behalf of the D.C. and he thanked the members of the Crowfield Gun Club who helped run the event.

We hope to hold next year's contest earlier in the year to attract more entrants at least one representative from every Group would help spread the prizes around the District.

**Melvyn Gallagher 3rd.Cranham**



**James King wins his scout trophy.**

### **Scout Section**

I always like to start these reports with some good news and it gives me great pleasure to announce that Roger Huggett of 2nd Cranham has been appointed to District Scout Leader. I am sure that you will all join me in welcoming Roger to the District Team.

Looking forward to future events, we have lined up some old favourites, and following feedback received from Scouts and leaders alike have coupled these with some new ideas.

Our first ever Archery competition will be held on February 4th at the 8th Hornchurch HQ.

Other events are on the District Calendar which is due to be issued soon, but for those impatient amongst you, the Scout dates for the first quarter 2006 are as follows:

- 21st January                      District Chess Competition
- 23rd January                     Scout Leaders Meeting
- 4th February                     District Archery Competition
- 4th March    District Gala
- 27th March Scout Leaders Meeting

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!

**Pete Seddon  
ADC (Scouts)**

### **For older scouts and explorer units.**

Why not visit the Havering Amateur Radio Club: they meet on Wednesday evenings at Fairkytes, Hornchurch. Contact Dave Cutts at [www.haveringradioclub.co.uk](http://www.haveringradioclub.co.uk).





### **District Away Weekend At Hayling Island**

Once again we travelled to Hayling Island. Mill Ryth -a quality holiday camp. A record number (18) took part in a Halloween weekend. All meeting at the Yew Tree Public House for Friday lunch and a drink (no change there then). After a good lunch we carried to the holiday camp to collect our room keys. Once we had sorted out the lack of rooms all was well. During the weekend we played bowls, drank, swam, played golf, ate, played snooker, drank, played darts, ate and at sometime slept. This will be repeated in 2006 open to all details available in January cost about £110 including an exclusive polo shirt? Deposits and bookings to me, hope to see you all there.

**Jim Berry "A.D.C. weekends away."**

### **2nd Elm Park "Lads and Dads"**

Well another month meant another camp at 2EP, and October saw our annual Lads & Dads Camp. Some of the Dad's pointed out that, as the lads go all round the country camping ( and this year the World ) it didn't matter to them that they always went to Belchamps for the camp. However, the Dad's only get to go on the one camp a year and they fancied a change..... So this year we held the camp at Downe Scout Camp, in Orpington, Kent. 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 48 people on the camp and due to the help of the Leaders, Scouts and family members all working together, along with the weather again being fantastic, the weekend went without a hitch.

Thursday saw myself and Grim getting ALL of the tentage up in preparation for the masses, as well as a visit to Tesco filling over three 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 48 of us split into three activity groups. After the pioneering, assault course and rifle shooting it was lunch, followed by our afternoon trip to the Chislehurst Caves. These caves were an excellent visit and well worth a look if you get a chance, but be prepared for the extreeeeeeeeeeemely loud and underwear filling noise at one point in the tour!!!!!! The Saturday evening 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 archery 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, a bit of a game of football and hit the road about an hour earlier than planned.

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.

### **Patrol Camps**

This year at 2<sup>nd</sup> Elm Park, as we haven't for a couple of years now, we decided to get some of the older Scouts in the Troop to run their own Patrol Camps. In the last 3 months ( August - October ) we have had three of our Scouts run their own weekends away, planning the whole camp from beginning to end. All three lads did very well and everybody they invited on their camps had a great weekend. On next page are reports of two of the camps...

**STUART BARHAM DSL**



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Elm Park Patrol Camps

### My first Patrol Camp at Thriftwood:

21st Oct roughly 7:30pm

At about the time displayed above we arrived at Thriftwood and began to put the tents up & with 8 people this is a quick business. So in good time we could start a fire and started to sing & even with only 8 people we were easily the loudest there. Then we settled down for a short night's sleep around 02:00.

22nd Oct roughly 7:00am

We all woke up and after about 2 hours booked our activities for the rest of the weekend. After a quick breakfast we went to do the Kave Maze with an instructor who for unapparent reasons was offended when we called it a Shed Maze. Then we.....,oh sorry I haven't told you who we are, well we are George Woodward, Nicky Wells, Tom Jarvis, Jake Olma, Michael Morton, Richard Morris, Chris Luscombe & Billy Taylor. Well we then went to do go carting in which I managed to upturn a car whoops! Then we went cork gun shooting & then back to have a quick lunch and chill. Before long it was dinner time so I went with Grim to get pizza for me & the boys. Shortly after having had dinner we found a few suspicious leaders lurking in the background ( Stuart, Grim, Dean, Punky and Daddy Voov ). So for the rest of the night it was our mission to surprise the leaders by rushing in on them & messing with their tents ... we succeeded.... More than once!!

23rd roughly ??:??

After having lost track of the time everyone awoke & put down some of the tents then we went to fish for the best part of the day. Then before long it was time to break camp and go home.

We all had a really good weekend and I hope some of you other Scouts manage to run your own camps like we have.

### George Woodward ( aka: Voov ) - 2<sup>nd</sup> Elm Park Scout

### My first Patrol Camp at Thriftwood:

My Scout Leader Stuart asked Voov ( George Woodward ) and I to run a Patrol Camp on our own and my first thoughts were "Oh my God". At first I didn't believe we could cope but we started to go over to the Scout hut half an hour early on a Wednesday to organise ourselves. We sent out letters to 10 Scouts inviting them to our camp. 6 Scouts agreed to be our guinea pigs and join in our fun! We needed to book the site and pretend to be Mum's when doing a shopping list, as well as sorting out activities. Once we had our food and equipment we were ready to go.

Throughout the weekend we took part in many activities such as Cork Guns, Kave Maze (this looked and appeared like a shed), Assault Course, Fishing (I caught 6 fish in 2 hours compared to Stuart's 1 in 2 days!) and Pedal Cars. These were great and I think everyone enjoyed them (especially Chris Luscombe). Voov enjoyed them - he didn't stack it (much!). Michael Morton kept us all on our toes as he was quite accident prone and Tom Jarvis thought it was bonfire night for loads of people and built a fire to be seen for miles. Richard Morris was a great help and will be asked to attend more camps as he washed up most of the time, we will provide rubber gloves for him next time! The Leaders (who stayed on another site for emergencies) tried hard to play practical jokes on us but we were too good for them, Jake Olma heard their delicate footsteps all the time. Billy Taylor was exhausted after all the activities and needed an early night.

We didn't cook Saturday night, we done the 'boy thing' and called out for a pizza! I think this was because I cooked burgers lunchtime and was sick on the fire, only half the burger was flammable! From this camp I have learnt that you have got to be organised and also to stick at it. As long as you are ahead of everything you will have a great time and a great Patrol Camp. I hope many of you are offered the opportunity by your Leaders, like we were by ours to run your own Patrol Camp in the future, as everyone who went on mine and Voov's enjoyed it loads.

### Nicky Wells - 2<sup>nd</sup> Elm Park Scout

# HORNCHURCH DISTRICT



## EXPLORER SCOUT NEWS

### ISSUE 3 – October 2005

Dear All,

Yes another edition of news from the Explorer section at Hornchurch District. In this issue we seem to have a lot of information about forthcoming events. If you do need more information please contact either your Unit Leaders or myself

Also, if your Unit has done an activity recently and you want to write up about it and send it through for the next issue, we can also include it in the District newsletter Scouting About.

Looking forward into 2006, one of the points from the award scheme I would like to encourage more in the Units are nights away. It is up to the Unit members as well as the leaders to ensure that we are putting the OUT in Scouting and not remaining in our meeting halls every week.

Scott Wilderspin

**District Explorer Scout Commissioner**

### **Forthcoming Events**

*District Clay Pigeon Shooting – 30<sup>th</sup> October 2005.*

Details about this years event are;

Venue: The Crowfield Gun Club, Latchford Farm, St. Mary's Lane, Upminster

Date: Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> October

Time: Gate opens at 10.00am, Should finish by 1.00pm

Cost: £12 per person, payable in advance

Dress: Waterproofs and boots as it can be muddy

Full details and Shooting consent form available from your Leaders.

*Remembrance Sunday – 13<sup>th</sup> November 2005.*

This important event of the year is normally an important Church Parade for most Scout Groups. As Explorer Scouts we are not directly connected with an individual group, but this does not mean we should not show our support at such an important Parade. For those who do wish to parade the Gladiator Explorer Unit will be parading through Hornchurch. The Parade will start from the Bingo hall cap park and finish at St. Andrew's Church. Any one wishing to parade with the Unit should contact the DESC for more details.

*Gilwell Park Winter Camp – 6/7/8<sup>th</sup> January 2006.*

Details about this years event are;

Venue: Gilwell Park Scout Activity Centre, Chingford

Dates: 6 – 8<sup>th</sup> January 2006

Cost: Site Fees £17.50 per person (food is extra), T-shirts also available at extra cost

For full details about this event please speak to your Unit Leader who will be available to provide you with a booking form and a menu list.

### **Hornchurch District Scout Council**

**District Explorer Scout Commissioner: Scott Wilderspin** 66 Grosvenor Drive, Hornchurch, Essex, RM11 1PW

Tel 01708 469406 Mobile: 07957 363683 Email [scott.wilderspin@sharepeople.com](mailto:scott.wilderspin@sharepeople.com) website <http://www.hornchurchscouts.org.uk>

**Patron** HM The Queen **President** HRH The Duke of Kent **Founder** Robert Baden-Powell OM **Chief Scout** Peter Duncan

Incorporating Cranham, Elm Park, Hornchurch, Rainham & Upminster. Registered Charity no. 303669

Alternatively please contact myself and you can join another Unit should your Unit not be attending the event this year.

This is always a popular event so all bookings must be received by the Leaders by Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2005, so that the main booking can go off to Gilwell on time.

#### *Thriftwood National Pedal Cart Championships – 13/14/15<sup>th</sup> January 2006.*

Details about this year's event are;

Venue: Thriftwood International Scout Campsite, Brentwood

Dates: 13 – 15<sup>th</sup> January 2006.

Cost: £17.50 per person (camping)  
£25.50 per person (indoor accommodation)

Teams: 4 to a team

Full details about this event are available from your Unit Leaders or by contacting the DESC or looking on the internet at the Thriftwood campsite website.

### **Uniform**

Please don't forget all Explorer Scouts must have a full uniform.

In most Units the full Uniform is not worn every week, but the District T-Shirt or Explorer Scout t-shirt are worn in their place.

If you wish to purchase additional items of Uniform please speak to your Unit Leaders who can point you in the direction of the shop that sells the required items.

### **Centurion Unit goes to Iceland....**



Centurion ESU accompanied 2<sup>nd</sup> Elm Park on this year's summer camp to Iceland in the group's first ever overseas adventure! We set off in the glorious Elm Park sunshine on 23<sup>rd</sup> July, hopeful of a quick journey to Kelcafik airport and transfer to *Karfanafanafanafanafanafanafageordie* (the place we were staying)...simple expectations you may say?

The scene was chaotic! Scouts high on sugar fixes from all the free sweets on offer were wandering the airport like zombies as our flight entered into the eighth hour of delay! Finally, after 13 hours, a pregnant woman with a willie gave us the news that the plane would soon be bound for Iceland (YESSSSSS!) The pilot, not wishing to miss out on the fun, then nearly landed on a row of houses! Fortunately, we made the runway second time round. After all these shenanigans, the coach company denying all knowledge of our booking was par for the course! Still, after 18 hours, we arrived at *Karfanafanafanafanafanafanafageordie*, home for the next week.

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> July, we set off for a trip to see the geysers and the third largest waterfall in Europe. The geyser is best described as a giant ulcer bursting and admitting its *puss* into the air (nice!). Some people stood with the wind in their face and were greatly surprised when boiling water was blown over them! The waterfall was just as amazing and stood like a huge football stadium – but three times the size!

The next day we had a lay in to recover from the excitement, but by the afternoon, we were up and ready. We took our first *peg* victim whilst strolling round the local harbour, literally, by placing a clothes peg marked *you've been pegged Iceland 2005* onto someone without them knowing. We then headed off to go *Whale Watching*, with the unfortunately named Captain Anas. When we first sighted the whales, we were quick to learn of their dirty toilet habits and forced to endure our time on the boat nearly suffocating from the smells emitting from both ends of the whale! We saw many whales, the most spectacular being two Minky whales.

The next day we set off to the *Blue Lagoon* to explore the wonders of the naturally heated spa. It was amazing how some parts of the water were so hot; it was simply unbearable just standing in it! We followed this with a hike over the local hills and fells. The landscape was powerful mixture of simplistic elegance and a harsh baron

environment. The route led us to another natural swimming pool heated by underground geotherms. We quickly established a bombing competition and the locals seemed to be enjoying watching our display.

Our last day was spent in the Romford sized capital of Iceland, Reykjavik, buying souvenirs and gifts. We headed home to England with no delays or missed runways. A final *pegging* of the airhostess was in order before we touched down on what has been a truly memorable and amazing camp! All the explorers for the Elm Park unit would like to thank the leaders for such a wonderful experience, especially Stuart and Grim for all their effort and energy in organising the adventure!

*Charlie Jacobs Chairman Elm Park ESU*

### **Centurions in Dragnet Adventure....**

A team of adventureroing Centurion Explorer Scouts took the long trip up to the Lake District to compete in the 31<sup>st</sup> annual *Operation Dragnet* organised by the Cumbrian Scout County. After battling against the traffic in a long journey to the Lake District, it then began a fight against time, the elements and teams of *Catchers* who relentlessly pursue teams over fields and across fells. *Operation Dragnet* begins after midnight on Friday. Having been dropped off at an unknown location, the competitors must work out their location then begin the 35 mile journey back to base, arriving as close to 11am Sunday morning as they can. Tough enough...? Well, through some *Catchers* into the mix and it becomes a whole lot harder. Our explorer made excellent headway, walking through the night. By midday Saturday they were well ahead of Network team and still had not been caught! However, two live taken within quick succession deflated spirits. Saturday night, and in desperate need of sleep they crashed out in a car park, only to be drenched in a sweeping downpour. With Vince turning quite literally blue, they called in for help – or rather, flagged down the next passing car (which at 2am on a Sunday morning in a quite country lane is quite some achievement!) and were lifted back to base. It was an excellent inaugural performance to get within 4 miles of the finish line, with a life still remaining and plenty of time in which to complete the challenge, well done lads! The Network team showed them how it should be done by winning the overall competition for the second year in a row.

*Ian Jones Centurion ESU*



### **Ever thought about joining a Campsite Service Crew?**

Thriftwood International Campsite in Brentwood, are currently looking to recruit Service Crew to assist with a variety of tasks around the site.

Thriftwood is 25% owned by Hornchurch District and the site is fairly close, so not much travel required.

As a Service Crew member you will join one of the teams and work one weekend each month. All food and accommodation is provided by the site and training courses will be given so that you can become an instructor.

If you are interested in joining the service crew or just finding out a bit more please contact the Warden, Bill Hindley on 01277 226571 or 01277 212784, or speak to him at the site.

### **Gladiator Explorers help at Kubadoo....**

It was great to see the Gladiator's Explorer Unit helping out at the County Kubadoo event this year.

The Gladiators were asked by Kevin Williamson ADC (Cubs Scouts) to build a "slippery pole" activity to compliment the other bases being laid on by Hornchurch District.

The activity went down well, and so did the Cub scouts as they were knocked off one by one.

Various people took part in the activity from Cubs, Scouts, explorers and also a Mayor (who happened to lose)

Having held the championship place throughout the day Stuart Dickson, promptly invited the DESC to take up the challenge. Needless to say the DESC won after a long battle (*"but then I would say that as I am typing this newsletter"*)



### **...Young Leaders Unit goes weekly**

As from September this year the Young Leaders Unit has decided to start meeting weekly throughout the non school exam terms.

This is a great move for those Young Leaders who wish to continue to work towards their training and the award scheme.

Numbers are remaining very strong and the varied programme style seems to suit all those who attend on Tuesdays.

If you are interested in joining the Young Leaders Unit please contact Dean Jefferys ESL (YL)

### **New Explorer Scout Unit opens in Cranham.....**

Yes we had a new Explorer Scout Unit open up in the Cranham area in September this year. This now brings Hornchurch District up to 5 Explorer Units meeting across three different nights.

The Unit's launch night saw some 12 Scouts arrive to start linking with the Unit as they progress through their moving awards. It was also fortunate that the Unit received Scouts from all three of the Cranham Scout Troops.

Since the launch night the Unit has grown to 15 members all which will hopefully soon be invested as explorer Scouts are start to progress on the Chief Scouts Platinum Award.

Anyone interested in joining the Cranham Unit (yet to be named) should contact the DESC.

### **Explorer Scout Newsletter – What do you want to see?**

Well again I have to ask what you would like to see included in the newsletter for the next edition.

Please send anything to be included to the DESC by the end of January 2006.

### **CONTACTS**

**Scott Wilderspin**

**District Explorer Scout Commissioner (DESC)**

Tel: 01708 469406      Mobile: 07957 363683

Email: [Scott.Wilderspin@Sharepeople.com](mailto:Scott.Wilderspin@Sharepeople.com)

**District Explorer Scout Administrator (DESA)**

Currently Vacant