



# 1<sup>ST</sup> PRITTLEWELL SCOUT GROUP NEWS & VIEWS

April 2010

*The newsletter of 1st. Prittlewell (St. Mary's) Scout Group*

There are quite a few dates for your diary in this edition, including regular meeting dates, camps and special events.

Please take careful note of those weeks when sections have altered their regular meeting day or location and enjoy what looks like it will be a busy and fun year!

## *Group Chairman*

## Diary Dates

### April

- April 19<sup>th</sup> (Cubs) - Visit to St Mary's Bell Tower
- April 20<sup>th</sup> (Cubs) - No Cub Pack Meeting
- April 20<sup>th</sup> (Scouts) - First Meeting after Easter, meet at Hockley Woods
- April 20<sup>th</sup> (Beavers) - First Meeting after Easter
- April 25<sup>th</sup> - Renewal of Promise
- April 27<sup>th</sup> (Cubs) - First Pack Meeting after Easter
- April 27<sup>th</sup> - Jamie at Home Fundraising Evening

### May

- May 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> (Scouts) - Outdoor Badge Weekend
- May 15<sup>th</sup> (Beavers) - Beaver Splash
- May 18<sup>th</sup> (Beavers) - Adventure Badge, Meet at Uncle Tom's Cabin
- May 22<sup>nd</sup> (Cubs) - Visit to Southend Radio
- May 22<sup>nd</sup> (Cubs) - District Handcraft Competition
- May 25<sup>th</sup> - Group AGM 6.15pm for 6.30pm Start
- May 28<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> (Cubs) - Cub Camp

### June

- June 1<sup>st</sup> - Half Term
- June 15<sup>th</sup> (Beavers) - Sponsored Bike Ride
- June 16<sup>th</sup> (Cubs) - District Sports
- June 19<sup>th</sup> (Beavers) - District Day Out to Gilwell
- June 23<sup>rd</sup> (Beavers) - District Sports
- June 29<sup>th</sup> (Beavers) - Beaver Visit

### July

- July 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> (Scouts) - Camping Competition
- July 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> (Beavers) - Group Beaver Sleepover
- July 14<sup>th</sup> (Leaders) - District AGM
- July 20<sup>th</sup> - Last week of term

### August

- August 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> (Cubs) - Father and Cub Camp

### September

- September 7<sup>th</sup> (Cubs/Scouts) - First week back after Summer Holidays
- September 14<sup>th</sup> (Beavers) - First week back after Summer Holidays

### October

- October 2<sup>nd</sup> (Cubs) - District Cross Country & Fun Day
- October 26<sup>th</sup> - Half Term

### November

- November 12<sup>th</sup> (Cubs) - Science Museum Sleepover

### December

- December 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> (Cubs) - Christmas Sleepover
- December 14<sup>th</sup> - Last week of term

## Annual District Renewal of Promise



Sunday  
25<sup>th</sup> April

For all Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Leaders, held this year at Southend High School for Girls.

Meet outside at 2.15pm for a 2.30pm start.  
Expected finish time 3.15pm - 3.30pm

Parents are welcome to stay (standing room only for parents and family).

Please wear smart uniform (uniform top and scarf, dark trousers, and shoes, if possible no jeans or trainers please)

## Jamie At Home Fundraising Evening

**Jamie**  
at home

Tuesday  
27<sup>th</sup> April

When: 6.30pm - 8.30pm

Where: St. Mary's Church Hall

Cost: Tickets £2 each, buy 2 get 3rd free.

The Cubs and Scouts will be spending the evening at the park so that parents, friends and neighbours can stay to enjoy the party and refreshments whilst helping to raise money for the group.

All tickets sold will be entered into a draw to win Jamie at Home products.

See Aimee at Scout meetings or email [aimiechilds@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:aimiechilds@hotmail.co.uk) for tickets.

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## Group Annual General Meeting



Tuesday  
25<sup>th</sup> May

All parents and family are invited to our Annual meeting on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> May, from 6.15 for a 6.30 start.

This year the Beavers and Cubs will meet in the Guild Hall while the first half of the AGM takes place and will join us for refreshments at 7pm. The second half of the AGM will be badge awards and some entertainment by the Beaver Scouts.

The Annual report will be emailed to all parents before the AGM to conform with our Group's aim to reduce all printing and photocopying costs. A few copies of the annual report will be available on the night.

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## Teddy Bear Parachute Jump



Saturday  
17<sup>th</sup> July

The Scout Group are taking part in a sponsored teddy bear parachute jump on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> July to help raise funds for St. Mary's Bell Fund. Please put this date in your diaries - more information will be available shortly.

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Beaver  
Scout  
Report



Our colony remains on a high with 22 invested Beavers, one to be invested after Easter and another joining us after Easter. We have 15 on our waiting list but about 8 or so of those are not yet 6. Next term we have just 1 more Beaver swimming up to cubs but I have not yet looked to September to Christmas term.

We have our plans in place now until July, covering the Promise challenge, The Explore Challenge and the adventure activity badges. These include a sponsored bike ride end of June and another group sleepover at Belchamps on 10<sup>th</sup> July.

Beavers have been fairly busy this term with 3 badges. The Experiment, Faith and Animal Care badges. We looked at cards and paintings by artists who paint with their mouth and feet and it's hard to keep a straight face when the Beavers asked "why don't they just use their hands" before you've had a chance to explain.

We gave them the chance to try this out for themselves, by painting a basic house with the brushes in between their toes, and their name with the brush in between their teeth.

It was a very messy night and they went home all colours of the rainbow but had a lot of fun, although they had to walk through buckets of water to wash the paint off their feet and we had to catch the little darlings who jumped in the buckets and slid all over the hall floor!

We completed our Faith badge by having Reverend Caroline come over from St Mary's church and introduce herself to the Beavers. She was very good and told them little bible stories and they came at back at her with some really interesting questions. So they did 1st Prittlewell proud.

The Animal Care badge caused lots of laughs and plenty of explaining to parents in the school playground the next morning. Beavers were given record sheets to complete at home showing how they helped look after their pets, however there is always one who doesn't have a pet and he asked if he could research an animal he would love.

Well it turned out to be Eddie the elephant. He wrote such a good report and obviously a lot of thought went into this project. He even described how he rode the elephant from his house when it was dark and let him play in Priory Park! He even got a plaster cast of the elephant's footprints and asked everybody if they wanted it's poo for their gardens. I'm so glad I have snails!

On a more normal note we made bird feeders and that was the day Brian chose to visit us. So with my hair and hands full of lard and birdseed, I tried to look as if I had everything under control. He always drops in when I'm doing something I shouldn't be!

For Easter we made chocolate birds nests with mini eggs; something nice and safe.

Next term the Young Leaders have arranged a sponsored bike ride along the seafront. They are doing it all themselves, including the risk assessment. Proceeds will be divided 4 ways between the group and the three lads. Chris' share will obviously go

towards his attendance at the World Jamboree, Isaac wants to have a family fun day at Belchamps and Mat hasn't yet decided, although I think we are looking to buy water pumps for 3rd world countries through Oxfam.

### *Beaver Scout Leader*

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## Cub Visit to Southend Radio

Saturday

22<sup>nd</sup> May



Time: 11am - 12 noon

This trip is limited to 12 Cubs, due to the size of the studio. Please let Akela know if you can come (if more than 12 Cubs want to come, places will be allocated on a first come basis, and an additional visit will be arranged for next term).

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## Cub Scout Report



We currently have 35 invested Cubs, including four who came up from Beavers in February and three who left to go up to Scouts in February. We have another Beaver due to Swim up in May, and three Cubs due to go up to Scouts after half term. This will leave 33 Cubs, which is a very large number! We have one on the waiting list.

We continue to be fortunate within the Cub Section and currently have three regular Leaders, myself and Sue Garwood (Shere Khan), with Bob Norton (Baloo) plus some excellent Young Leaders (Jack Webb, Luke Arthurton and Daniel Norton). This term we have also had Myles Sawford helping. Myles is an Explorer Scout, a former member of 1st Prittlewell and has been helping at Cubs as part of his Duke of Edinburgh award.

In addition to the Leaders and Young Leaders, my thanks go to the parent helpers who have completed a Scouting CRB and now come to help on an occasional basis - their help is really appreciated.

In January, we started with a games night, and it was fun, albeit noisy! The second week of term we started the Global Challenge Badge. For this badge we learned about an international Charity (Oxfam), learned about the culture and traditions in other countries including Egypt, had a cake sale for the Haiti Earthquake Appeal that raised £53 (and that is amazing as most of the cakes were 10p each!), and a quiz to see how much we had learned.

On 23rd Feb 8 Cubs brought in their collections for the Collectors Badge. They displayed their collections for the rest of the Pack to look at, and talked about their collections to the Leaders and the other Cubs. We all talked about what we liked and our favourites. There were lots of different collections including key rings, beer bottle tops, Lego, Dr Who Collectors Cards, and Beano comic books. Some Cubs forgot to bring their collections in, so we repeated this evening on 9th March.

The animal carer badge started on 2nd March with a visit by some snakes and rabbits. Most of the cubs stroked and held a snake and the braver ones had the snakes around their necks! The rabbits were not too keen on the noisy Cubs, but the snakes didn't seem to mind. At the end of the evening one of the snakes ate a mouse in front of the Cubs, which they all agreed was fascinating but not very nice! For the rest of the Animal Carer Badge, we learned about different garden birds and how to identify them, what they eat and where they live, and about how the Cubs look after the pets they have at home.

On 27<sup>th</sup> March 8 of our Cubs went to the District Camping Skills Day at DHQ. Our Group ran the Tracking Base, and the Cubs also got to try putting a tent up, packing a

rucksack, making camp gadgets, fire lighting and safety and basic first aid.

On 6<sup>th</sup> April we went to the Imax Cinema at Waterloo to see the new Disney Pixar movie 'How to Train Your Dragon' in 3D. A group of 32 of us went up by train and tube. Thanks to the Leaders, Young Leaders and Parent helpers, most of whom took a day off work to make this trip possible.

The first Pack meeting of term for the Cubs will be on 27<sup>th</sup> April, as the Church are using the hall for their Annual meeting on 20th April. Instead of the Cub Pack meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> April, we have been invited to see the Church Bells in the tower on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April at 7pm.

During the Summer Term we plan to do the Fitness Challenge, Navigator Badge and Hobbies Badges.

Summer Term Diary Dates:

Cub camp will be from Friday evening on 28<sup>th</sup> May until Sunday afternoon on 31<sup>st</sup> May at Thriftwood Scout Campsite in Brentwood. Forms have been sent out to parents already, money has to be paid by 11<sup>th</sup> May.

The Church Fete will be on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> June.

On Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> July the Scout Group have been asked to help with a fundraising Teddy Bear Parachute Jump to fundraise for the Bell Fund. The idea for the parachute jump came from James Garwood, one of our Scouts. Letters will be sent out to Group members shortly.

Father and Cub Camp will be 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> August at Belchamps Scout Campsite in Hockley. Camp letters will be sent out by the end of May. All Dads must be CRBed for Scouting - ask Akela for a form. All forms must be submitted by the start of June.

Autumn Term

The badges planned for the Autumn Term are the Community Challenge, Artist Badge and Home Help Badge.

We have a Science Museum Sleepover booked for 12<sup>th</sup> November. This is a great opportunity and there are 20 places for Cubs available. More details will be given in September.

Our Christmas Sleepover will be 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> December at DHQ on Eastern Avenue. This popular sleepover is open to all Cubs who want to come, and Cubs will sleep in a heated building (not tents!)

### *Cub Scout Leadership Team*



Scout  
Report



The first activity last term was winter camp. Although we have seen it snow at camp before this was the first one where we had to clear the snow as we pitched. The temperature was similar to last year but felt colder as there was more moisture in the air. Sixteen scouts from 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Prittlewell attended and it was a good weekend despite Zachary managing to break his arm not long after he arrived. Still it did not spoil his weekend, just restricted his activities a bit.

The activities were pretty much the same as always, although I did see a surf boarding machine that looked quite good and mini digger driving. They also had a wide range of indoor activities so scouts have places to go when they need to warm up. The evenings are also well organised, with cinemas, disco and for the first time this year the Nintendo room was open all evening.

We started the off the term back at the hall with crafts and acting or video filming. This is for the creative challenge.

As we have many crafts for the scouts, those that have the badge already can still do

creative activities new to them. We had one evening dedicated to Knots. The troop was split into three small groups and spent time with a leader tying a different knot at each base. This went very well and the scouts tried very hard to tie them.

We cooked pancakes on Shrove Tuesday, the scouts cooked their own and were really well behaved and cooked them really well. Aimee brought in some food colouring and added it to the mix, they looked a bit odd but the scouts thought red and blue were great. We have also had a ready steady cook evening and again the scouts were well behaved and got on with the task.

During February Half Term, the troop went to the Houses of Parliament and the Imperial war Museum. This was very good, we had an excellent guide taking us around the palace during the morning, she was very good with the scouts who prompted them to ask many questions and she was able to keep the tour very interesting. We had lunch outside the Jewel Tower opposite Parliament and then walked to the Imperial War Museum. Once inside the scouts had free time and they all seemed to behave very well.

The first weekend in March was a district badge weekend at Belchamps. We had nine of our scouts there doing various badges including Forester, Electronics, Model Maker, Mechanic and Climber.

Also In March five members of the troop entered the Leigh Fellowship Archery competition: They were very successful and came away with the winner's cup for best team. Members of the team individually came 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> and most improved. Another excellent performance from the troop.

The Tuesday before Mothers the troop made cards. Some were not keen at first but after watching others a few minutes they soon joined in. It went reasonably well and there were some very nice cards made. It was nice

to see the scouts making an effort to produce something nice for their mothers. The scouts spent another evening learning some skills. Again they were in small groups learning or demonstrating how to wire a plug, first aid and compass bearings and grid references.

A small prize was awarded to the group that scored the most points during the evening. The last evening before Easter was dedicated to games. The activities we have done have on occasion cut into game time so this was an opportunity to make up for that. It was also Luke's last night with 1st Prittlewell before joining Explorer Scouts. Luke brought in some sweets for the troop which I thought was a very kind gesture.

The trip to Big Ben was cancelled as there was a problem with the booking. We did have a definite date but due to the tours office changing their system some bookings including ours went missing. At the time of writing this I have not had any reply to emails sent to arrange another date but will keep trying.

*Scout Leader*

## Group Scout Leader's Report



It is hard to believe that we are into Spring already and Christmas is a far distant memory or just 8 months away!

This term seems to have gone so fast, but as usual the leaders from the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts have once again produced a varied programme. It has been very pleasing to visit the Beaver Colony, Cub Pack or Scout Troop and see the young people enjoying themselves so much.

I feel sure that the leaders cannot wait for the Summer Term as it allows them to get out and about. As is usual, in the Summer Term, 1<sup>st</sup> Prittlewell Beavers, Cubs and Scouts will be seen in and around Prittlewell and this can only help to show the local community who we are and what we are.

As the biggest scout group in Southend Estuary it is good for me to know that we have leaders, assistants and helpers that can very adequately manage our young people whilst they are in the public eye.

*Group Scout Leader*



## 1<sup>st</sup> Prittlewell Scout Group Jamie at Home Fundraising Party

When: Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> April  
6.30pm - 8.30pm

Where: St. Mary's Church Hall

Cost: Tickets £2 each

Buy 2 get 3<sup>rd</sup> free.



The Cubs and Scouts will be spending the evening at the park so that parents, friends and neighbours can stay to enjoy the party and refreshments whilst helping to raise money for the group.

All tickets sold will be entered into a draw to win Jamie at Home products.

See Aimee at the meeting or email [aimiechilds@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:aimiechilds@hotmail.co.uk) for tickets.

