

## Diary Dates

### January

January 10th - First meeting back after the Christmas holiday.

### March

March 9<sup>th</sup> - Fund-raising race night.

### May

May 29<sup>th</sup> - 1<sup>st</sup> Prittlewell Annual General Meeting.

### June

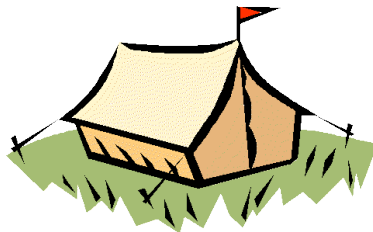
January 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> - Family Camp.

We are holding a Race Night to raise funds towards the cost of activities at this camp - full details are included at the end of this newsletter.

## Group Scout Leader's Report



## Family Camp 2012



We are holding a family camp at Thriftwood Scout Campsite, from Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> June to Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2012.

All Adults must have CRB clearance from the Scout Association, within the last 5 years.

If you are not currently CRB cleared for Scouting please ask your leader for a form. These must be submitted by the end of March 2012 to ensure clearance is received before the camp. If you are not sure if your CRB clearance is valid please speak to Akela who will be able to find out for you.

There is no limit on the numbers who can attend this camp, and booking forms and further details will be sent out via email during the Easter Holidays.

Firstly I wish a Happy New Year to all Members of the Group and their families. It is now just over a year since I was asked if I would like to join the group and so far I have not yet regretted it. Thank you for all your hard work in the last year.

Following the last meeting I have attended both the Cubs and Beavers' Christmas camps respectively. Both sections seemed to have a really good time. A special mention to Isaac as Sue informs me he did a lot of planning for the Beaver Christmas Camp (well done).

During the past year I have tried to see all the sections on a Tuesday evening but regret that I have not spent much time with the Scout section and will arrange with Shaun an evening this term when I can attend and join in.

Yours in Scouting  
James

*Group Scout Leader*

## Beaver Scout Report



Since September, we have had 7 swim up to the Cub pack, but 3 who should have swum up left the group beforehand and 1 new Beaver left. These spaces have been filled and we are running at 25 Beavers, as we had twins come in and it is only for a few weeks. These twins were friends with the little boy Joseph, who was tragically killed a few weeks beforehand, so their coming into the group was perfect for them.

We have 3 more beavers swimming up this term but only 2 coming in so numbers even out.

Our waiting list still runs at 16 and the new twins have been on our list just under 10 months. These twins are identical and so much fun.

We have done the healthy eating badge, where we had Beavers make sandwiches and bring in their own lunch box and we all had a vote on how healthy or not they were.

All of them included fruit and Beavers were amazed at how much sugar was in their cartons of drink. After working out how many teaspoons, we put sugar in a cup to show them and their parents.

Beavers held a party for the District to celebrate 30 years but attendance was very poor with only 4 from our group.

We took Beavers to priory park for a scavenger hunt in which they had to find 20 things and 1 interesting item per group. Young leaders took them round the park and Parents went along too. It was good.

Our GSL gave out name badges to the Young Leaders. Beavers chose the names Beetle for Luke, River for Harry and Newt for James.

For Remembrance church parade, we heard about the original poem and how the wearing of poppies came about. We made poppies and wore them to church parade.

After half term we had a karate demo from Jack Webb who enthralled the Beavers and took them through their paces. They were a little dumfounded when he was introduced by his well-earned title. He was very good with them, as always and we must say a huge thanks you to him.

We also did a little fundraising for our Christmas sleepover & next Family camp, where we collected unwanted clothing and this has been sent off to Bags For School who will donate 50p per kilo, we collected about 30 kilos. Not much I know, but next time we can widen our collection to the neighbouring community.

So the £60 from our bring and buy sale was for sleepover the expected £15 will be towards Family camp.

We made Christmas wreaths with the outer part of the red plates from our poppies (waste not, want not) and the decorations would have stuck on if Harry had used glue and not white paint. (enough said)

So our Christmas sleepover was on 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> December at Belchamps and 21 Beavers attended. It was a hectic 24 hours, as camps always are but everyone came away with smiley faces, even the 2 Beavers who had just started, didn't get homesick. 1 of the Beavers got upset at the film. Apparently Santa Paws is a bit sad.

Thanks to Shaun and James for helping to clear up at the end of it. Should have been there for the meal and party. It rocked.

Nigel Smith played Father Christmas and also helped cook dinner for 30, with Martin Binnie.

Teresa Bradshaw took on the role of craft master and Beavers went home with clove

stuffed oranges, glitter boxes, various sweets and home-made decorations.

Plans have already been made for next year only to discover that Belchamps are holding their Beaver Christmas sleepover the same weekend we wanted. CURSES! But we might try them out instead.

Again attendance was poor for the District Carol service with only 8 of ours going.

Once again a huge thank you to Louise for organising the much looked forward to Kids Kingdom evening.

We have plans in place up to Easter and these include the animal care badge and we have invited DWARF to come in and that means snakes and I don't do snakes.

Other District events include the annual trip, to Willows Farm again. I personally love the daft duck show and I hope that there are no puppies on show this time as last time Teddy tried to sneak one out under his coat.

### *Beaver Scout Leader*

## Cub Scout Report



The Cub Pack continues to be fortunate with Leaders and Helpers and we have recently welcomed Samantha Garwood to our Leadership Team. Sam is very good with the young people and is a real asset to our Cub Pack. We currently have 22 invested Cubs and are expecting 4 new comers from outside scouting as well as a number up from Beavers at the start of January Term.

Last term was busy as usual during our Cub Pack meetings; we learned about our Church, its traditions, what the different parts of the building are called and what they are used for, as part of the My Faith Badge. We heard all about the Swedish Jamboree from Jack and James, and

created Trebuchets made out of garden canes and elastic bands, performed short plays about firework safety, having a fireworks themed night with sparkler, home-made indoor 'fireworks', marshmallow sticks and posters, and made some Christmas cards for the Creative Challenge Badge. We also learned about how to stay safe inside our houses, and what to do in an emergency for the Home Safety Badge.

As well as our weekly meetings we went to camp with 4<sup>th</sup> Canvey Cub Pack, who are from Castle Point District, and enjoyed a fun filled weekend at our Christmas Camp at Thriftwood in Brentwood in November. The Cubs we very well behaved all weekend, and had fun making lots of Christmas crafts including drinks coasters, stockings, mince pies, Christmas cards, window decorations, and paper chains. As well as the crafts, we had a treasure hunt, a Christmas party with games and prizes, Christmas Dinner with our ADC Cubs as our special guest, a campfire with songs, and a short Remembrance Sunday service where we all observed a minute's silence.

The last week of term was spent at Kids Kingdom with the Beavers, it was lots of fun for the Beavers, Cubs and Leaders as well.

This term we will be continuing the Global Challenge Badge, which we started last term by learning about the Swedish Jamboree. We will be learning about Swedish traditions, food and culture, what things we can recycle and why it is important to recycle. Also about the work of an international charity, and how hot air balloons work - and making one out of tissue paper and seeing if it can fly inside the hall using a hair dryer to provide the hot air. Later this term we will be working towards the animal carer badge, and hope to have a day out during half term.

Finally, thanks go to all the Cubs and parents for the cards and gifts given to us at Christmas, it is very kind, thank you.

*Akela & the Cub Scout  
Leadership Team*

## Scout Report



Last term was rather busy, we covered some old favourites and done some new things as well.

We went swimming at Garons pool and although it was not ideal as it is quite small and was crowded, we managed to get most of the younger scouts a badge and the older ones a higher stage badge.

The swimming Gala this year was well attended and a lot of troops put teams in. We had a full team in the 10-12s and a part team in the 12-14s. We did very well, winning some races and picking up good points in others, the younger team came 3<sup>rd</sup> overall, unfortunately the older team did not do so well as there were not enough of them to enter all the races.

We did more badge work in the hall with the Guide, Chef, I.T, Photographers and this time we had Derek from 5<sup>th</sup> Prittlewell running the Meteorologist Badge. This works well as we can work in small groups and scouts can cover all the badges during their time with the troop.

We did some paper pioneering, but this time the task was to make animals rather than structures. As it was a while ago, I can't remember all the animals made but I do know there were a Giraffe and an Elephant.

The Expedition in October was a little later than usual as I was committed to other things so it was the third week of the month. It turned out that it was warm and dry all weekend, perfect for hiking. We had a couple of our scouts doing this and although they were quite slow Saturday taking far longer than others, they made good time Sunday.

Also in October was the Indoor badge weekend. We had 12 scouts at Belchamps working on badges that cannot be easily done at troop night or special interest like

Mechanics, DIY, Electronics and Forrester. This was a district event with about 60 scouts attending.

The half term hike was well attended by the younger scouts which was good. We caught the bus to Victoria House Corner and hiked back to Priory Park following where possible Prittle Brook through West Wood, Great Wood and Belfairs Park. The scouts did not seem very keen on learning map and compass skills but these things take time and they did very well to hike that far.

One troop night we played Dragons Den: The leaders played the role of dragons and the scouts came up with the ideas. The "Super" games console that did everything and more was a non-runner due to the manufacturing costs being 3 times higher than the selling price. The super delicious totally fat free ice cream was almost there but the selling price would be too high.

For me the best idea was bubble gum where you blow a bubble and the face of your favourite celebrity appears: what a product that would be.

One evening the troop went over the airport to the Air Cadets for some team activity games and also watched some videos on activities that the cadets do. Flying Officer Byford made the troop most welcome answering questions and even offered refreshments during the evening. This is another option for scouts when they leave the troop.

The last meeting of term was bowling at CJ's in Hockley. This was a fun evening and the scouts really seemed to enjoy themselves: it's not often that they can spend the evening together just socialising, they were well behaved and all went well.

*Scout Leader*



RAISING MONEY FOR 1<sup>ST</sup> PRITTLEWELL FAMILY CAMP



# Social Night with Races



At **RNA CLUB, East Street**  
**Friday March 9th 7.30pm- 11pm**

**£3.00 per person including buffet**  
Entry with Ticket only

*Please note this fundraising evening is not suitable for young children*

*If you can't come on the night, support us by buying a horse (£3.00 each,  
Winning horse owners win £10) or Sponsoring a Race for £10.  
Horses are limited to 64 and will be allocated on a first come basis*

**For Tickets and/or Horses Please Return the slip below to Akela (with money)**

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Name .....(Beavers/Cubs/Scouts\*)  
\*please indicate which section your son/daughter belongs to

..... Tickets at £3.00 each = £.....

*Please write the Names of all the people you are buying tickets for on the reverse  
of this slip (needed to comply with RNA Club rules)*

.....Horses at £3.00 each = £.....

Please write names of horses and their owners below