

## Key Upcoming Dates

January 12<sup>th</sup>: First meeting of Spring term

February 14<sup>th</sup>: Church Parade

February 16<sup>th</sup>: Half term, no regular meeting

March 14<sup>th</sup>: Mothering Sunday Church Parade

March 30<sup>th</sup>: Last meeting of Spring term

April 20<sup>th</sup>: First meeting of Summer term



## 100 Years and Counting

As we begin this, 1<sup>st</sup> Prittlewell Scout Group's 101<sup>st</sup> year, I would like to extend a big thank you to all those who contributed towards and attended 2009's Centenary events. The year was a great success and it was fantastic to see it rounded off with a celebration with guests including past leaders and members of 1<sup>st</sup> Prittlewell Scout Group.

1<sup>st</sup> Prittlewell Scout Group looks set to go from strength to strength, continuing to be one of the largest groups in the District.

So, here's to the next hundred years!

*Group Chairman*



## Beaver Scout Report



We start the new decade with a full colony of 22 boys and 2 girls. There is still a waiting list of children waiting to come in and those still not yet of an age to join us.

Over the coming term we have just 4 Beavers swimming up to Cubs, so there will not be much movement in that list.

Over this last term we have been doing a lot of fitness and games work, taking pulses before and after exercise and doing different exercises, from just marching on the spot to jumping jacks and even a wonderful demonstration of Karate by Jack Webb. Unfortunately the lights went out about 10 minutes from the end of the demonstration and as the children had their shoes off, we couldn't even adjourn to the other hall, so with some very quick thinking from Jack, telling the children about meditation, some light from adults mobile phones and Jim phoning home for advice on where the fuse box was, all light was restored and everything OK, no panicking children, just a rather harassed Keemah!

Also on the healthy theme, we made sandwiches, fruit salads, tortilla wraps and planned a picnic with games and where they would hold it etc. Some very interesting answers and game ideas, which we will implement when the weather permits.

At this time of year we also tackle the creative challenge as we make Christmassy things. I had obviously been watching too many crafting shows on QVC and we tried our hands at black sophisticated cards. They turned out very well actually, but

nothing like they do on the shows. Fake snow gets everywhere though, worse than glitter sometimes.

Our Christmas hats were organised by Teresa Bradshaw and she held the meeting on her own as leader, as I was in London. All went well and I had no concerns.

Can I thank Jim here, for doing a lot of chasing about getting everything Okayed for that meeting and our Christmas sleepover.

We did our 1st Christmas sleepover end November at DHQ. It was cold but dry. We had the Beavers sleep in tents made over to look like igloos. This was great to look at and the Beavers “got” the theme and played along.

The Beavers had outdoor games, a campfire (eventually, as Chris was organising that), sewed stockings and then went to bed at about 10pm. In the morning we melted our igloos, made clove stuffed oranges, which made the hall smell wonderfully Christmassy and again went outdoors to do a few games whilst the hall was set up for dinner and a film show. They watched Santa Buddies and really enjoyed themselves with a cup of hot chocolate.

After a full Christmas dinner, we had about 30 minutes of party games and then Father Christmas paid us a visit. This was just great. Parents have commented on how much the children enjoyed themselves and can't wait until the next sleepover in summer.

Our last meeting before Christmas, was again joined with Cubs at Kids Kingdom so a huge thank you to Louise for organising that. We actually did 5 investitures at the top of Jelly Mountain and instead of applauding the Beavers as they slid down, they were pelted with balls. They loved it.

We start our meetings again on 12th January but as we have our planning meeting tomorrow, I cannot give you any idea on what we'll be doing, apart from our fundraising event will be a sponsored bike

ride along the seafront and the Young Leaders will be organising it.

The District Leaders meeting and training day was huge fun for everyone, where we played the games ideas and made everything Christmas crafty. With the amount of mess and giggling, we were worse than Beavers.

We have a few dates planned as a District, such as our ART ATTACK in February (open to the 2 youngest and 2 oldest Beavers only) and the winter party in March, both with a jungle theme. The Leaders always dress up to go along with the theme and last year it was the beach. Not the kind of weather to stroll around in your swimsuit and sarong, so at least we'll be warmer. Our group is making snakes, which I thought would be easy, but is proving problematic already and I've yet to make holes in the 3000 bottle tops!

Our annual day trip will be to Gilwell and join in their fun day in June.

Unfortunately, due to personal reasons, 3 of my parent helpers have decided to withdraw their offers of help with our group. We thank them for their contribution and dedication to the Beaver section and wish them well for the future.

That does leave me again with 2 parent helpers that are attend when they can helpers, 3 young leaders and Teresa and myself.

*Beaver Scout Leader*

Cub Scout  
Report



We currently have 32 invested Cubs, with four coming up from Beavers this term, three going up to Scouts and three due to start from the waiting list. This will give us

a running total of 36 Cubs, which is the maximum allowed in a Cub Pack.

We currently have two regular Leaders, myself and Sue Garwood (Shere Khan), with Bob Norton (Baloo) coming when his work hours allow, plus some excellent Young Leaders (Jack Webb, Luke Arthurton and Daniel Norton).

In September we worked towards the My Faith Badge; we learned about the different parts of the Church building, visited the Church with Father Shaun and the new Curate (Caroline) to learn about some of the ceremonies that take place in the Church, wrote some short prayers and discussed our favourite religious songs. The prayers and songs also counted towards the Creative Challenge Badge work.

On 20th September, 9 Cubs came to the hike to Hadleigh Castle. We met at Southend Central and had to get a bus to Benfleet (as the trains weren't running!), from there we walked to Hadleigh castle, enjoyed an ice cream at the Salvation Army tea rooms, and had lunch sat on the castle ruins, before walking down the hill to Leigh Station to get the bus home. Shaun helped the cubs to read the map and work out which way we should be going. This outing counts as one hike for the Hikes Away Badge.

We also completed the Creative Challenge with short plays, songs, card making and posters. During the work for the Personal Challenge we learned about railway safety, the fireworks code, stranger danger and staying safe on the internet.

Our Halloween Sleepover was a great success and enjoyed by all the Cubs (and Leaders). We did lots of Halloween craft and had lots of games. All the Cubs were well behaved and a credit to our Pack. We have already booked the DHQ building for next December for a Christmas Cub Sleepover (11-12th Dec).

The final week of term was at Kids Kingdom with the Beavers and Scouts, and was enjoyed by all who came. It was especially

nice to see Hathi (Claire Rogers) and Rikki (Lucy Rogers) who came to help as they were home for Christmas from University. This was paid for by the Centenary Year fundraising and was a lovely end to a memorable year of celebrations.

This term the Cubs will be doing the Global Challenge, Animal Carer Badge and Collectors Badge.

At the time of writing this report the District Cub Planning meeting has not yet taken place and so dates for 2010 District Events are not available. In addition, Church Parade dates are not yet available from Father Shaun.

Provisional dates can be given for camps this year (Please note these are only provisional dates and may be subject to change): Cub camp 28 - 31 May, Father and Cub Camp 6 - 8 August, Christmas Sleepover 11-12 December.

### *Cub Scout Leader*



## Scout Report



There are currently 20 scouts in the troop as we had eight leave in the summer and three this Christmas, although we have had two come up from cubs.

It has been a good term for the troop; we have done well in a couple of competitions and the scouts have had plenty of opportunities to gain badges and awards.

September started with some simple pioneering, one week with laces and bread sticks and the following week with staves and rope, although this was due to be hobbies night and a few had shown interest in this, but on the night only one brought in their hobby, so we listened to John talk about his model railway. Aimee ran

Chocolate deal or no deal which the scouts seemed to quite enjoy.

October was a busy month and we ran four badges: Guide, Chef, Photographer and IT; obviously the scouts could only choose one. We ran this over two weeks to meet the badge requirements. The photographer badge required some additional work at home so from five on the badge only two received it. We also took the troop swimming and most had improved and gained the next stage badge.

During October the District scouting skills weekend for younger scouts was on. Unfortunately none of our scouts attended so there is nothing to report, but they are good weekends to learn basic skills.

The District wide game was also poorly attended with only two of our scouts turning up. Again our scouts missed an opportunity to meet members of our linked Explorer Unit which has many 1st Prittlewell scouts. We teamed up with other scout troops that also feed Mercator and we won every game.

We also entered a team of four in the Leigh Fellowship Night hike, although on the night it was three, but the boys done extremely well and won the competition.

During the Half term we once again completed a long distance cycle as the final part of the fitness challenge. Five scouts completed this, although only two were awarded as one had done it last year but wanted to do it again and two have not completed all their paperwork (part one of the badge).

During November we visited the Planetarium, this was part of the astrometry badge, the other part was the following week when they had to correctly (excluding relative scales and distances) make a solar system made from tissue paper and wire, this was to make sure that remembered something from the planetarium.

The Planetarium visit was really good: the guy new his stuff and as he teaches youth groups and schools had knowledge of the badge requirements and was able to answer all the questions from the scouts without being too technical.

We entered half a team into the swimming gala, no 10-11s only 12-13s. Although we did not have enough to swim all the races and had to drop one, the scouts swam superbly and we came first.

We started work on the Global Challenge which is compulsory otherwise we would not bother to spend so much time on it. Last year we ran it over two weeks with the idea that the scouts made notes one week then use the notes to turn it into a suitable report that could be read out to the troop the following week. This assumed that the scouts would do some homework which did not happen and only around five scouts gained the award.

This year we changed it slightly so the scouts could spend more time researching and just hand in their findings rather than do a presentation. We also had provision to extend to a third week for those that wanted to complete it and some did. Overall this had similar results to last year and only a few doing enough to gain the award. As I mentioned it is a compulsory badge so we will continue to provide the opportunity but whether they want to or not is up to them.

Mystery night was run by other leaders whilst I was with scouts finishing off the Global Challenge. I did not get much chance to see what was happening but the part I saw towards the end reminded me of Cluedo.

The last night of the term was at Kids Kingdom: this was a good idea of Louise's; the scouts had a good time and were very well behaved.

Winter Camp is this weekend and January we will be working on the Creative Challenge.

A visit to the Houses of Parliament and a museum is planned for February Half Term and Big Ben at Easter. I could not get the two together as Big Ben was fully booked for half term and Parliament is not available at Easter due to the election.

*Scout Leader*

an enjoyable evening and wishes us all the best for the future.

May I close by wishing you all a very happy and prosperous New Year and hopefully during this year I can emulate the keepers at London Zoo and welcome any newcomers into our Leadership Team.

*Group Scout Leader*

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## Group Scout Leader's Report



The start of a new year and it's at this time of the year when I feel like the keepers at London Zoo. They have to count all their animals during January for their annual census and I have to count all ours. I mean Leaders, Assistants Leaders, Helpers, Young Leaders, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts for the national annual Scout Census.

First impressions indicate no significant change in numbers this year. However, as always, we are still short of helpers for all three sections. Hopefully this year we will get some more parents volunteering to help. The good news is that the money we have to pay to Southend Estuary District has not increased this year, however other overheads may have risen and this may have to be reflected in the Subs for 2010 - 2011.

Towards the end of last year it was good to see that when, for various reasons, Section Leaders could not be present that their assistants were only too willing to step in and takeover.

Hopefully we can continue our 101th year as we did our 100th, the centenary celebration at the RNA in December was a success and thanks to all that made this possible. The District Commissioner has sent his thanks for