

## Diary Dates

### January

January 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> (Scouts) - Winter Camp  
 January 8<sup>th</sup> (all) - St. Mary's Church Bell Dedication Ceremony (further details within this newsletter).  
 January 11<sup>th</sup> - First meeting back Christmas holiday.

### February

February 8<sup>th</sup> (Beavers) - Meet at Ambulance Station in Short Street.  
 February 22<sup>nd</sup> (all) - Half-term, no meeting.

### April

April 12<sup>th</sup> (Cubs & Scouts) - Visit to Science Museum and Natural History Museum

### May

May 24<sup>th</sup> (all) - Annual General Meeting  
 May 28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> (all) - Family Camp

### June

June 1st (Scouts) - Visit to Royal Observatory

*Please note: Church Parade Dates are still to be announced by the Church*

## Beaver Scout Report



The Colony has 22 Beavers in the group with 2 swimming up to Cubs next week. They should have gone up earlier but failed to attend quite a few meetings and missed their link dates. I still have quite a long waiting list and have already filled those spaces upon our return.

2 of our Young Leaders have had to leave us (although they visit us every week), due to college commitments, but we still have ever faithful Isaac Smith, James Holland and

### 1<sup>st</sup> Prittlewell Family Camp

10am on Sat 28<sup>th</sup> May – 3.30pm on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2011

At Thriftwood Scout Campsite, Brentwood  
 Cost £30 per Adult and per Child over 5 years old, and £15 per child 5 years old and under



Catering will be provided, bring your own tent (or borrow one from us) and camp as a family and enjoy all the activities of Cub Camp!

Activities to include climbing, adventure playground, cresta run, rafting, water zorbing, sky hi walks, plus games, craft and campfire.

All adults must be CRBed for Scouting – ask your Section Leader for a CRB form

Suggested kit list, camp menu, programme, camp site directions and camp forms to be given out after February half term

newbie Harry Cozens. It is very odd (but satisfying), having your first Beavers come back as Young Leaders.

They have been very active in their planning ideas, meetings, games and other activities.

Going back over this past term, we have been studying the Friendship Challenge, where we asked what we needed in a good friend, how to help others if they find themselves being bullied and learnt about team trust, by doing team building games. Doing the conga holding hands and falling back onto steady hands, waiting to catch us.

We have also been cooking, well making chocolate brownies, breakfast banana muffins and lemonade.

The indoor fireworks (water & Alka Seltzer) was a huge hit as was mints in cola. Some of the chalk pictures were spectacular.

We had a visit from WPSO Elaine Hayter who also witnessed a swimming up ceremony. She enjoyed our meeting very much and has added her son to our waiting list.

James took on the challenge of organising the advent calendars this year and did a good job there. Well done James. This was the 1<sup>st</sup> time he flew it alone on an activity.

Due to adverse weather, we had to cancel 1 meeting but parents were notified by email texts & calls but still 1 didn't receive notification.

Little Havens finally came in and Mat Arthurton presented them with their cheque of £135, which Beavers raised in their sponsored bike ride last June. They spoke to the Beavers about Little Havens and how this money paid for a nurse for a morning but they are actually saving up for some more specialist equipment.

Our District carol service was attended by 12 Beavers so thank you to all of those and I must also add that Beavers attendance at Church parade has increased. So a huge thank you to those for making that extra effort and representing the group's youngest members.

Beavers also made a variety of Christmas decorations, from chains, to mini trees, painted plaster figures and napkin rings.

Beavers joined Cubs at Kids Kingdom on 14<sup>th</sup> December. This was organised by Louise and I would like to thank her for doing this. This is a much enjoyed event. We chose to charge our Beavers for this at £4 each and this money is go towards activities at the Family camp in May.

We have next terms plans in place and Beavers can once again look forward to an

exciting term.

*Beaver Scout Leader*

## Cub Scout Report



Autumn Term 2010 was another busy time for the Cubs. At the start of last term we learned about our local homeless charity, HARP, and collected food items which were taken to the Church on Harvest Festival Church Parade to be donated to HARP and the Women's Refuge. We also had a visit from PC Mark Routh, who talked to the Cubs about his job, and brought all his different uniforms with him for the Cubs to try on. This was part of the Community Challenge badge work.

On Friday 12<sup>th</sup> November, 20 Cubs and 5 Leaders went to the London Science Museum for a 'Science Night' Sleepover. We went to a talk about hot and cold temperatures, made a spy gadget with wires and a battery, and discovered all about mechanical inventions. We went to sleep below the stars and space ships hanging from the ceiling in the Space Gallery. In the morning we went to the 'Launch Pad' where the Cubs had a chance to try all sorts of different experiments, and this was followed by watching a 3D film in the Imax Cinema about Space and the Hubble Telescope. It was a fabulous trip, enjoyed by all the Cubs and Leaders. Special thanks go to Pat Webb, Teresa Webb and Emma, who raised over £600 towards this trip, making it possible for us all to go.

After half term we had a Fireworks themed evening with sparklers, chalk pictures and home-made indoor 'fireworks' (made with 35mm film canisters, water and fizzing tablets). This was a very popular evening with the Cubs especially enjoying seeing

their homemade fireworks flying up in the air.

The chalk pictures counted towards the Artist Badge work, and the Cubs also made greetings cards, and models from air-dry clay for this badge. Unfortunately we did not get the chance to decorate the models during the Cub Meetings as we had to cancel the pack meeting due to the snow.

Towards the end of term we made poppy woggles to commemorate Remembrance Sunday, and had a Pack meeting based on 'Christingle' theme.

Unfortunately, the District Cub Carol Service was cancelled due to the snow.

Our Christmas Sleepover was held at DHQ on 12/13 December. The Cubs made mince pies, decorated biscuits with icing and sweets, made hama bead decorations, sewed and decorated felt Christmas tree decorations, made Christmas Cards and made stained glass Christmas lanterns complete with battery operated tealight candles. We also had time to walk to McDonalds for our dinner, have some party games and watch a film as well. We finished at midday, to give us all chance to get home in time to get to Church for the Christingle Service.

The last week of term was at Kids Kingdom with the Beavers and later the Scouts. All the Cubs who came enjoyed themselves, but we missed all those who were taking part in the concert at St Mary's School.

We currently have 30 invested Cubs, and have three new Cubs from the waiting list starting this term (1 in January and 2 in April). We are still at full capacity, with approximately 12 Beavers expected to swim up and 12 Cubs going to Scouts this year.

This term we are going to be doing the Promise Challenge and Communicator Badge, and joining the Scouts for a day out at the Science Museum and Natural History Museum in the Easter Holidays. Our next

camp will be our Family Camp on 28<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> May 2011 (the last Bank Holiday weekend in May).

Church Parade dates are yet to be decided by the Church, but I will let you have the dates for your diary as soon as we have them.

*Akela & the Cub Scout  
Leadership Team*



Scout  
Report



Last term was very good offering plenty of challenges and opportunities to gain badges.

Our numbers have increased slightly this term to 16, although 2 are moving on to Explorers we should have 3 cubs coming up to replace them.

Gary arranged visit to the Vulcan Bomber Project over at the Airport in September and was particularly good. We met at the Airport and walked over to the where the XL 426 Bomber is parked. There we met the guys from the Trust and they showed us around the aircraft explaining in great detail the workings and the history of this aeroplane.

The scouts were also able to climb up into the cockpit for a look around. The meeting overran about 20 minutes as the scouts were asking so many questions and were very interested in this aircraft, in fact a couple had looked it up on Wikipedia before the visit.

In October Dave Wright (from 2nd Prittlewell) and myself ran the Expedition Challenge. this is a tough weekend, the scouts hike around 16 miles carrying all their equipment including food, cookers and tent. armed with route card, map and compass the scouts navigated their way around the footpaths of Danbury. Apart

from getting a little lost, they done extremely well with only one giving up through fatigue.

During the October Half term, the troop went to visit Big Ben and Victoria and Albert Museum. Big Ben was really good, 334 steps round and round, but there were respites where our tour guide talked about the history of the tower and the bells. We were standing next to the bells when they struck midday, we also went inside all four clock faces and saw the clock itself along with the famous one penny weights keeping the clock accurate.

The Victoria and Albert Museum was good, with such a wide variety of exhibits they was something for everyone to enjoy: and at no point during the day did anyone say to me "Is this lot with you"?

In November, we had another hike, similar to the Expedition but carrying less equipment and not walking as far. This was designed to get the younger scouts prepared for a full Expedition. Although we were only walking to Arc lane the scouts still used a map and compass to find their way. Aimee, Chris and I walked with them, helping them when needed. As we done this on bonfire Night we walked up to the top of Gusted Hall lane and see the Belchamps fireworks for free. The Guys the scouts made the week before were burned at Arc lane that evening.

Before these hikes one and a quarter troop nights were spent teaching scouts how to pack a rucksack, how to use a route card, choosing the right type of food to take and the advantages and disadvantages of three types of small cooker.

Also in November Aimee arranged for the troop to visit the Synagogue in Westcliff. An interesting evening learning about another faith. Unfortunately it was dark outside so the stained glass could not be fully appreciated, but we have been invited back in the Summer to see it properly and hopefully more scouts will be able to attend.

The Swimming Gala in November was a very poor turnout by 1st Prittlewell standards, we only had three turn up but were lucky enough to borrow a scout from 1st Barling for one race that you needed four competitors. In the other races our three scouts swam superbly (with Lloyd being outstanding) and we managed to pick up second place in the competition.

At the hall the scouts have had the opportunity to earn badges, we have run the Chef, Photographer, I.T and Guide Badges, these are run simultaneously and the scouts choose which one they want to do. We have also been swimming and badges are staged 1-5, so scouts of all abilities can earn a badge.

We made Christmas boxes in November, something that we always do and more traditional scouting skills making Sedan chairs from lashed staves and then racing them.

*Scout Leader*



## Group Scout Leader's Report



As many of you will already be aware, since the last newsletter our Group Scout Leader, Jim Hawkins, has unfortunately resigned his position within the 1<sup>st</sup> Prittlewell Scout Group. Jim has his own business and due to the current economic climate is having to dedicate more of his time to its promotion and running. He therefore feels he is no longer able to support the group in the role of GSL as he would like and has made the decision to leave us at this time.

We obviously understand and support his decision and I would like to take this opportunity to thank him, on behalf of the entire group, for his time and service with us and to wish him well with all future endeavours.

In the short-term, our Cub and Scout leaders will be sharing the GSL role, until a permanent replacement has been established. Efforts are being made to find this replacement at the moment, so watch this space!

*Chairman on behalf of the 1<sup>st</sup>  
Prittlewell Group Scout Leader*



## St. Mary's

### Church

Bell Dedication  
Service



The Dedication of the New Peal of 10 Bells and Service Bell will be on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> Jan at St Mary's Church at 3pm.

The bells will be available for viewing from midday, and open ringing will commence at 2pm, and an invite band will ring a Service touch at 2.45pm. Following the dedication service the bells will be rung by local ringers.

Refreshments will be served in the Guild Hall following the service.

Parking will be available in the Old School Car Park (Southend United are playing at home, so street parking will be very limited).



## Wanted

### Parent reps on the Group Exec

Are you willing to give up an hour of your time three times a year?

Would you consider becoming part of our Scout Group Executive Committee?

We currently have two parents on our committee, but have vacancies for two more.

Our meetings usually take place the Tuesday before term starts in January, April and September.

The meetings last approximately one hour, and include discussions of what each Section has done recently and plans to do during the coming term, plus reports from the Treasurer and Group Scout Leader.

The Executive committee makes decisions about finance and Group events.

For further information please speak to your Section Leader.