



# 1<sup>ST</sup> PRITTLEWELL SCOUT GROUP

## NEWS & VIEWS

September 2010

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

It's Official - We are the Best Scout Group in Southend Estuary!  
We have won the George Stacey Trophy for the best Scout Group the second year running! Congratulations!

## Diary Dates

### 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 10<sup>th</sup> - Church Parade & Harvest Festival

October 15<sup>th</sup> (Scouts) - District Wide Game

October 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> (Scouts) - Danbury Expedition Challenge (over 12s)

October 26<sup>th</sup> - Half Term Break

October 26<sup>th</sup> (Scouts) - Visit to Big Ben and Victoria & Albert Museum

### November

November 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> (Scouts) - Two Day Hike (no age limit)

November 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> (Cubs) - Science Museum Sleepover

November 13<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> (Cubs and Scouts) - District Swimming Gala

November 14<sup>th</sup> - Church Parade & Remembrance Sunday

November 28<sup>th</sup> (Scouts) - District Incident Hike

### December

December 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> (Cubs) - Christmas Sleepover

December 14<sup>th</sup> (All Sections) - Last week of term

### January

January 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> (Scouts) - Winter Camp

January 11<sup>th</sup> - First meeting back Christmas holiday.

### Other Forthcoming Events

Scouts - Visit to Vulcan Restoration Project

Beavers and Cubs - Family Camp 27<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> May 2011

## Beaver Scout Report



We are still running at full capacity and this will continue, even though we have 8 swimming up from Beavers to Cubs over the next term. We will be transferring 2 in from 2<sup>nd</sup> Southend, so that means I can only take in 6 from my 18 long waiting list this year. However some on my waiting list are not yet 6.

Beavers have enjoyed a full programme yet again, going onto the beach for monster face making which was great fun, although we did have a few problems with Parents not getting texts or email notices. I must stress that I do give out a written programme at the start of the term, which also enables those parents on the help rota, to get sorted and offer help, where they can.

I thought the Beavers were excellent doing their signing entertainment at the AGM and we have Chris Ball and the Gang Show to thank for their support and tuition.

The Young Leaders organised a sponsored bike ride along the seafront from the Sealife Centre to Uncle Tom's cabin in Shoebury. 2.2 miles. We raised over £400 to date and this was divided 4 ways, being ¼ to Chris for his World Jamboree, Mathew has nominated Little Havens as his charity, a portion to the Beavers group and the other portion was spent on an end of year activity and picnic special, organised by Isaac Smith.

All this was very well organised, with them even checking the Beavers bikes and helmets and being very strict on brakes, tyres and hi visibility jackets. Everyone who took part received a certificate and a well-earned choc bar. The parents who waited at the finish got roped into serving up the squash. A great time was had by all.

We also had a very successful summer sleepover at Belchamps. Where all but 3 of the group came along. It was a hot weekend and we had water games with a large water slide, various super soakers and a massive water bomb fight. However, whilst the Beavers went on their hike round Hockley Woods, I stayed behind to prepare for war, but the red water bombs just didn't play fair. They kept on splitting, jumping off the tap and squirting me through tiny holes. I was totally soaked by the time they got back and my shoes were not even dry by the next day! During the night we had a visitor. The biggest badger I have ever seen. Its claws were under the door and it scared the living daylights out of me, as I was sleeping by the door.

Nigel Smith ran a wonderful BBQ for us so we send our thanks. James kept us well-oiled with plenty of tea. Martin was sent on a shopping spree for ice lollies but nearly everywhere was sold out.

We had 2 Beaver investitures on Council Rock, just before we left camp and Parents came along to witness this event. We also invested Teresa Bradshaw on Council Rock. We had invited the ADC to do the Investiture, but she was unable to attend.

We also joined in the District events, with only 4 our Beavers joining in the Beaver splash and 9 in the sports day.

Our annual day out was to Gillwell and their annual fun day. Although it was huge with plenty to do, time is very limited and a couple of groups only managed to go on 2 things. Everything closed down at lunchtime and it poured with rain. I stood queuing

whilst the Beavers sheltered under a nearby tree. You could have wrung me out, I was so wet.

We also took a trip to the Fire station. I was unable to attend due to a back problem, but Teresa took them and they had a great time., After a fire safety lecture they were allowed to do all sorts of things They were allowed to climb all over the appliances and try on the boots and helmets and even try to put out the flame board from the training tower.

The cherry on the cake was when they had an emergency call out and the fire fighters were coming from everywhere including using the pole and they had the sirens and lights going. But because there was an emergency, they did not get the usual pens and stickers they normally would have done. Still I think the experience more than made up for it.

We have a programme in place for September to December but not been given dates for the District carol service yet.

#### Badges gained at the summer sleepover

##### Nights away 1

James Cockell

Luke Randall (invested on Council Rock)

Jonathan Newsham (also invested)



##### Hikes away stage 1

Luke Randall

James Cockell

Jonathan Newsham

Edward Ambrose

Nayte Parkinson

Spencer Bakewell

Bradley Bakewell

Adam Mhalaba

Alfie Treacher

Robert Trace



Katie Dalgarno

Joshua Fowler

William Pier

Thomas Cozens

Finlay White

Rowan Tovey

John Cachia

Teddy Chapman-Bourne

*Beaver Scout Leader*



## Cub Scout Report



We still have a very large Cub Pack (and our numbers are limited by the maximum number allowed by the Scout Association), and have a waiting list. We are able to accommodate all Beavers who are coming up to Cubs, but are unable to take in any 'outsiders' for the foreseeable future.

These large numbers are a reflection of the Leadership Team, and the varied programme of badges, outings and camps that are run. My personal thanks go to Sue Garwood (aka Shere Khan), Bob Norton (aka Baloo), Daniel Norton (aka Rama), Jack Webb (aka King Louie), Luke Arthurton (aka Mowgli), Myles Sawford and the parent helpers who come to help us run the pack. Without these people giving up their time it would not be possible to run such a successful Pack.

### The Fitness Challenge

Last term Cubs did the fitness challenge, which included looking at what they ate during the day and seeing if they had their '5-a-day'. Some cubs were having 5-a-day, but others struggled to have 1-a-day! We also tried to improve our fitness over a three week period and I am pleased to report that all cubs did very well at this. We also looked at all the different sports the Cubs did at school and at home, and this was a very long list.

### Church Parades

I was very disappointed that no cubs attended the last Church Parade in July. We are part of St Mary's Church, and part of our promise to do our duty to God is to attend Church Parades. I appreciate it is not possible to attend every church parade, but recently attendances have averaged 4 Cubs, out of a Pack of more than 30.

I encourage as many as possible to attend Church Parade on 10th October or 14th November.

This term we have 2 sleepovers planned, the first is in London at the Science Museum, and the second is a Christmas Sleepover at the District Headquarters Building on Eastern Avenue. To qualify to come on either of these events Cubs must attend Church Parade in October.

### Father and Cub Camp

In August, 16 Cubs and their Dads went to Belchamps for a 'Dr Who' themed camp, complete with our own Tardis.

Cubs and Dads made masks, ID badges and Aliens, walked through the woods, went swimming, tried archery and went on the assault course. When the Cubs were in bed, the Dads enjoyed a social evening around the campfire.

The weather was kind to us, with a little rain on Friday, and early on Saturday, and lots of warm sunshine. Thanks go to all the people who helped during the camp - the Ladies who came on Saturday and Sunday to help cook, the Leaders and Young Leaders who were there all weekend, and to the Dads who helped put up and take down the tents. Thanks also to G P Mason Electrical Ltd who lent us a van for the weekend.

### Science Museum Sleepover

The sleepover at the Science Museum is a very special event. Places are strictly limited by the Science Museum, and only young people aged 8, 9, 10 and 11 may attend. The sleepover is planned for Friday 12th November, and we will meet at Southend Victoria Station at 5pm. We will return on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> November and should be back at Southend Victoria Station by midday. The Science Museum sleepover will include: exciting hands-on workshops, sleeping overnight among the Science Museum's amazing exhibits, watching a breath-taking 3D film in the IMAX Cinema, and a tasty breakfast.

The cost of the sleepover is £40 per person plus travel on 2 days, but as we have been fortunate and have a large amount of money which has been raised to subsidise this event, the cost to each Cub is £20.

There are 20 places available, and these will be allocated on a first come, first served basis to Cubs who hand in completed health forms and £20. Remember - you also need to come to Church Parade in October!

Science Museum Sleepover health forms will be sent out via email.

### Christmas Sleepover & Artist Badge

In December we are once again running our Christmas Sleepover. It will be held from Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm until 12 noon on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December. Cubs will sleep together in the main hall of the District Headquarters Building, and will make Christmas Crafts for the artist Badge and enjoy a full Christmas dinner. There is no limit on numbers at this sleepover, and the cost is £15 per person. Further information and Health forms will be given out after half term in October.

### Term Dates

There is no Cub meeting on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> October (Half Term).

The last meeting of term is on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December, and the first meeting of the new term is on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2011.

### *Cub Scout Leadership Team*



Scout  
Report



The Scouts had a busy time last term, learning skills and playing games.

We started last term in Hockley Woods, playing wide games and a word search game where the answers were hidden in the trees. This worked reasonably well I think, most of

them tried to find things although for some the lure of the playground was too much.

We had a bowling evening in the hall but used a coconut in place of a ball. This was good fun they all seemed to enjoy it but there were a couple of moans about how unfair it was, mainly from those that were not winning.

The science evening went ok, Aimee brought in some stuff and we made lava lamps with vegetable oil, food colouring and soap, watched what happened when mints are added to cola and another thing that I can't remember. Basically this was a messy evening that they all enjoyed.

We had a district Camp at Thriftwood and seven scouts attended. We had three on The Survival Badge, two on Camp Cook and two on The Expedition Challenge.

After Half term we had a visit to the Ambulance Station in Short Street: this was very good. It was very hands on which the scouts enjoyed. They were split into two groups and were shown CPR and Recovery Position and a tour of an Ambulance. Inside the ambulance the scouts were wired to the heart monitor and had their blood pressure taken. They also were told about other equipment carried and used a special inflating chair usually for lifting people off the ground. After the visit I told the scouts that this could be used a badge work towards the Community Challenge but no reports have been handed in so far.

We spent an evening at Belchamps, backwoods cooking for those in the Camping Competition and fire lighting and some cooking for those that weren't. This was ok and they all managed to cook and eat something.

The Athletes badge was spread over two weeks and we added Discus to the field events. Two gained the badge less than last

year but they did seem to enjoy the events mainly competing against their friends.

The chip shop survey revealed a new winner; The Fish House is again the scout's favourite after losing out to the Fishy Fryer last year.

We came ninth in the Camping Competition this year. The site layout was very good but what let them down was the inability to work as a team, there was an awful lot of nothing going on most of the time. I was a little bit disappointed as I thought they could have done better as the older boys are quite capable, but I was pleased Lloyd was seen to work very well. During the competition I have little or no contact with the patrol as I am marking other patrols, but I do keep an eye on their progress.

The last meeting of term was bowling at CJ's in Hockley.

### Summer Camp

This year summer camp was at Broadstone Warren. This was a large wooded site in Ashdown wood just outside East Grinstead. We took a patrol of six and had a good week. The scouts cooked all their own meals except for two and looked after their own site. They still struggled to work together or help each other through fear of doing slightly more work than someone else, but they were much better by the end of the week. They had lots to do all week Abseiling, air rifles, pot-holing, low ropes, Sumo suits and a day out to Chessington.

The weather was good except for Saturday afternoon when it poured down for about an hour. Badges awarded at camp were for Dante (Outdoor and Adventure Challenges and night's away stage 4) James and Zacharie 75 nights away.

### Forthcoming events

We have two hikes coming up in October one for the younger scouts and the Expedition Challenge for the older ones. We also have a visit to the Vulcan Bomber restoration project at the airport organised by Gary and finally the Big Ben tour is in

October half term and we will also be going to the Victoria and Albert Museum.

*Scout Leader*