



1ST PRITTLEWELL SCOUT GROUP NEWS & VIEWS

September 2011

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

Diary Dates

September

September 13th (All) - First meeting of Autumn term.
September 17th (Beavers) - Beavers 30th birthday party.

October

October 16th (All) - Harvest Festival Church Parade.
October (Scouts) - District weekend.
October (Scouts) - Danbury expedition (older scouts).
October 25th (All) - Half-term, no meeting.

November

November 11th-13th (Cubs) - Cub camp at Thriftwood.
November 13th (All) - Remembrance Day Church Parade.
November (Scouts) - Danbury expedition (younger scouts).

December

December 3rd (All) - St. Mary's Christmas Fair.
December 10th-11th (Beavers)- Christmas sleepover.
December 13th (All) - Last meeting of term.

January

January 10th (All) - First meeting of new term.

1st Prittlewell Scout Group, AGM



No, not another meeting, but as we start another term I just want to extend a quick thank you to all who attended the group's annual general meeting this year. It was an opportunity for any who may not have already done so to meet our new Group Scout Leader, James Reynolds and for everyone to get involved with the continued running of the group. We also confirmed new parent representatives for the group's executive committee.

My thanks once more to all for supporting 1st Prittlewell Scout Group and I look forward to another successful, enjoyable term for all.

Group Chairman

Beaver Scout Report



We start our Beaver meetings on 13th September. We have 9 Beavers starting their link to Cubs and 5 coming in, but that doesn't really make much of a dent in our waiting list. It just clears those who have been on it from 1st quarter 2010. So we are still at full capacity, even over it (if you include the non-invested Beavers), with the transitions taking place.

Last term rain stopped a lot of our playtime and activities outdoors but we had a good number turn up at the District sports day in June. Lots of parents joined in too and they really enjoyed participating in the tug of war.

Beavers celebrated the Royal wedding with paper plate rosettes, made kites, and margarine tub sailboats which we sailed from Shoebury East beach. There was another Colony of Beavers having fun on the beach and were quite eager to join in our fun, so we let them. We reinforced how important it was to engage new friends in our fun and games. The tide was coming in so it kept bringing their boats back to the edge. Everyone got very wet and much fun was had by all.

Our Beaver splash, usually held in May was cancelled due to lack of interest from District groups. We only had about 40 Beavers attend the last one, but we are looking towards doing the swim stage 1 badge at some point, dates are to be confirmed.

As is usual for us, we organised a bowling evening for the last day of term and scores of over 100 were reached by all Beavers.

Although an invitation to attend the 3rd Chalkwell Bay Sea Scouts open sailing day was issued, only 2 families took up the opportunity and again everyone came off the boats wearing huge grins.

To look ahead to this term, we have the 30th Beaver birthday party on Saturday 17th September, where there will be games and a celebration cake. 250 Beavers could attend. Got to be a big cake then!

Christmas is quite firmly in our minds and our Christmas sleepover this year will be at Belchamps on the weekend of 10th & 11th December. A further report will be made after Christmas.

We are doing quite a few badges this term as well, but most of those are quick activity badges, unlike the longer to gain challenges. As previously mentioned, rain scuppered a lot of our plans so we will resume those challenge badges as and when we can.

I have 4 young Leaders alongside Teresa and myself and we all work very well as a team and their enthusiasm keeps Teresa and I going, when we are flagging a bit.

We have a District leaders meeting next Thursday so I cannot give dates of Carol services etc until then, but I do know that in January we have a Leaders training day, where we all meet, learn new craft and game ideas and then realise that we cannot jump or run or skip like Beavers!

Beaver Scout Leader

Cub Scout Report



At the end of the Summer Term the Cub Pack numbers fell to just over 20, the lowest in recent years, as we had quite a number go up to Scouts recently, however we will soon be at full capacity once more as we are expecting nine to come up from Beavers this term.

Before the summer holidays we did the Road Safety Badge, with a visit from a local cycle safety officer, and learning about how to behave as a passenger in a car, different types of pedestrian crossing, and the safe way to cross the road when there is not a proper crossing.

We also had an evening of team building games including lighting a candle from over a meter away using canes, string and a match, picking up a tennis ball without touching the ball with any part of your body - using elastic bands, and remembering a picture and re-drawing it from memory.

We also had a craft evening and went to the park and had team games.

Our Pirate themed family camp took place at the end of May at Thriftwood, in Brentwood, and was blessed with good weather. Beavers, Cubs and Scouts camped with their families and took part in lots of site activities, including rafting, water zorbing, high ropes, adventure playground, cresta run and climbing, as well as pirate crafts and a pirate cake competition. We had fun packed days, and relaxed social evenings around the campfire. This was the first family camp at 1st Prittlewell and we have had a lot of positive feedback from the families who took part.

Cub camp took place at Belchamps in the middle of July, and was based around the Cub Camper Badge. The weather was not as

kind to us as it was in May, and it would be fair to say it was the wettest camp we have had in many years. The rain did not dampen our spirits and we amended our camp programme to allow us all to dry out occasionally and keep nice and warm. We still managed to complete the camper badge requirements, but forfeited our hike through the woods in favour of a drier activity.

During the summer holidays the Leaders have been busy planning our programme for this term and had a camp meeting with 4th Canvey Island Cub Leaders to plan our next camp, which is a joint camp with 4th Canvey Cubs and will be held at Thriftwood in Brentwood 11th - 13th November. There is a limit on the numbers we can take to this camp (as we are in a building and are limited by the number of beds available in the dormitories). More details will be sent out to Cub parents shortly.

During Pack meetings this coming term we will be learning about our Church, its traditions and the what the different parts of the building are called and what they are used for, and creating a prayer about our Cub Promise for the My Faith Badge, we will be hearing all about the Swedish Jamboree from Jack and James, and starting on the Creative Challenge Badge work with Trebuchets made out of garden canes and elastic bands, making up short plays about firework safety, having a fireworks themed night and making some Christmas themed crafts.

We won't be attending the District Badge Day in October - as it is for the communicator Badge - and we have recently completed this badge during our Pack Meetings.

Other District events are to be advised - as the DCSL meeting will take place after this report has been submitted.

*Akela & the Cub Scout
Leadership Team*



Scout Report



During the summer term we got out as much as possible and despite the seemingly rainy summer Tuesday evenings were mainly dry. We went to the park for a couple of times to play cricket and rounders and found time for wide games as well.

Three meetings were dedicated to Geocaching, before half term Derek spoke to the about Geocaching and presented a slideshow as well. The scouts were very interested and asked all types of questions; Derek also had a few different types of GPS devices to show the scouts.

After half term we went to Priory Park to find a hidden cache. The scouts were given a task sheet to fill in to eventually reveal the coordinates of the cache; this involved finding clues from other areas of the park first. We split the troop into three and they started from different areas, finally meeting up at the final GPS location.

The following week we went to Hockley Woods to find the caches hidden there. Being such a large area there was no chance of finding all the caches so the troop were again split up and each patrol went off to find a different one or two if time allowed.

Another evening away from the hall was the chip shop survey: although we have done this before, Aimee thought it would be better if we tried another area. We met at Rochford Reservoir and used this as our base. The scouts were put into groups and with a leader went off into Rochford to buy some chips. Both groups visited a couple of shops each and then returned to the Reservoir to add tomato sauce and eat them.

The winner voted by the scouts was the mobile kebab van, although the chips were nice they were not chips they were fries.

The last meeting of term was a visit to the Coast Guard. This was on a Wednesday due to the Station Officers availability. This was an interesting evening and good timing as well as Barry (Station Officer) during the evening spoke about the dangers of the tide and mud along the seafront just in time for the summer holidays. Barry also spoke about the role of the coast guard in the community and what's involved in a rescue.

Barry kept the scouts very interested with his style of presentation giving them opportunities to ask questions and answer his. As with many of these visits we do, they can be used towards the Community Challenge badge, all is needed is a report on the visit including their role in the community.

We went Camping three times this term, Belchamps 75th Birthday, Camping Competition and Summer Camp. Belchamps 75th Birthday Camp Back in May was one of the best weekend camps we have been on. We camped with 2nd Prittlewell and the weather stayed good. It was similar to the 2007 Centenary Camp with lots of activities including it's a Knockout; fortunately our slot was Saturday afternoon which was the warmest time over the weekend.

The Camping Competition in July was a slight improvement over the year before. Meals were kept simple and as a result easier to cook. This does not score so many points as being flamboyant but the patrol scored more than the previous years as the food was not in the bin, ready on time and tasted ok, and that's where the slight improvement was.

The Camping skills were as good as previous years but we lost points in the same places as other years, which revolve around having to do things and making an effort.

Summer Camp was at Tolmers and was really good. We went with 2nd Prittlewell and also took 2 from 5th Prittlewell who are still meeting with us until their numbers improve.

The week we were at Tolmers was the CTT week which is an activity week. The Scouts choose what they want to do each morning then spend the day doing them. There were four sessions each day with some sessions like swimming sailing and rafting counting as two.

Wednesday was hike day and the whole camp were off site for the most of the day. This was an activity run by the Tolmers crew so it gave the leaders an opportunity to go Geocaching; Michael whom was not on the hike came with us and found his first geocache.

Thursday rained for much of the day but this did not stop any of the activities and there were no dramas with kit getting as we had the ground sheets sausaged up and brailing cloths off the ground. The scouts completely ignored the rain and carried on with their activities. Although on occasion there were some scouts feeling a little homesick, which was no surprise really, being that most had only been in scouts a few months (weeks even) I was pleased that they all stayed.

Looking ahead there is a district weekend in October which is always popular also in October there will be an Expedition in Danbury for older Scouts and a scaled down version for younger scouts in November.

Scout Leader





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A huge thank you to all who continue to support 1st Prittlewell Scout Group.