



Akela says...



Hi everyone, hope you are all well and busy preparing for Christmas.

Another busy month for all sections. The Beavers had Connect 4 and Kids Kingdom. The Cubs had Jungle Rally and County Cub Quiz and the Scouts had

Southend, Survival Camp and Cyclo Cross.

First for the Beavers was Connect 4. Well done and thank you to those that attended. Kids Kingdom was next, it was brilliant and scary, especially the bridge where one of the Beavers kept trying to push me to go faster. The bridge was very high and I was scared. I also called to the Beavers that I was stuck between 2 big roller things but none of them came to help me. I had a great time and I am sure that the Beavers who attended did too.

The Cub section had Jungle Rally first which is a test of their Scouting skills in things like knots, compass, map reading, tracking etc. There is also another trophy to play for and that is the Nature Trophy where they have to identify trees, birds, bugs and other stuff. Well done to the team of Abigail Lee, Daniel Lee, Charlie Jones, Chloe Stevenson, Ryan Blake and Georgia Tear. They came 1st in both competitions. Next up was the County Cub Quiz. Well done and thank you to the team of Jack Avis, Joshua Harvey, Sophie Carr, Chloe Stevenson, Sebastian Bastidas and Georgia Tear. They came 10th out of 12.



Scouts next and first up was our annual trip to Southend with 6 Scouts, 3 Explorers and 5 Leaders. Usual stuff; amusements, Adventure Island, food, Adventure Island, amusements, back to van and car for homeward journey. Thanks to all that attended. I am saving my pennies for next year. Next up was Scout Survival Camp. I didn't attend this but well done to Daniel Pike, Geoff Morley, Chloe Marbe and Amy Oxley. You will have to ask them about it.

On Saturday 3rd December we loaded up the bikes and went off to Crow Camp for the Cyclo Cross. Well done to Geoff & Lauren Morley, Chloe Marbe, Ryan Blake and Sophie Clark. I am not sure where we came as a group but Ryan was joint 3rd

By the time you read this we will have had the Carol Service so well done and thank you to all that attend.

This weekend, 9-11th December, sees 54 Cubs, Scouts, Explorers and Leaders at Thriftwood for our annual Winter Camp. Full report next issue.

That's it from me, take care.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year.

AKELA

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE 9TH BARKING & DAGENHAM SCOUT GROUP

Akela's Shout

Scouts - www.scouts.org.uk
District Website - www.barking-dagenham-scouts.org.uk

Scoutbase - www.scoutbase.org.uk
Scouting Resources - www.scoutingresources.org.uk

County - www.gln-scouts.org.uk

Mr T. (Group Scout Leader)
Ken Thompson

'Akela' (Cub/Scout)
Rosemary Oakwell

'Baggy' (Cub/Scout)
Darren Dowling

'Gaz' (Beaver)
Gary Collins

Dagenham

Dagenham

Dagenham

Mobile:

Tel:

Home Tel:

Mobile:

Julie (Beaver)
Julie Morley

Mobile:

baggy@scoutingresources.org.uk

Contact Details



Beavers

Saturday 4th February Panto

See T for details

Cubs

Saturday 14th January Chess

17th HQ - 9:00 for 9:30 start
See Baggy for details

Saturday 4th February Panto

See T for details

Scouts

Saturday 14th January Chess

17th HQ - 12:30 for 1:00 start
See Baggy for details

Saturday 28th January Mark Sutton

6th HQ - 10:00 - 4:00
See Baggy for details

All Sections

Tuesday 27th December CLOSED

Reopen Tuesday 3rd January

Adults

Saturday 17th December Christmas Outing

Bowling at No. 10, Romford
£17.95 with buffet
See T for times

Explorers Survive!



11 Explorers crash-landed in Thriftwood and had to survive for two days with nothing but the gear they were standing up in, sleeping and bivvy bag and the contents of their survival tin.

They began by constructing a variety of different shelters with materials to hand while three of them undertook an expedition to deepest, darkest Brentwood to obtain the legendary 'one day fishing licence'. Only with the return of these adventurers, and a bit of skill with improvised rod and fishing hook from the survival kit were we eventually able to catch a fish from the lake (which magically turned into about 5 trout by the time it made it our fire which the others had lit after experimenting with several different fire lighting techniques, none of which I hasten to add involved the use of matches or petroleum based products).

The afternoon saw them practising some wood collecting, shelter maintenance and cooking skills. After completing various tasks they managed to get their hands on some chickens which we roasted in the fire (hmmm..lovely)..

As night approached we joined up with those Scouts still alive just across from us for a morale boosting campfire and set of wide games, ably run by the Explorers. Towards midnight, as the temperature plummeted, the Explorers mustered up some rations and drinks from their kits and supplies before they headed off to sleep under the stars and try out their bivvy bags and survival bags the hard way.

Morning saw them all survive the sub zero temperatures to find a deserted village of frozen tents. A quick stoke up of the fire and breakfast was served all round to fuel them for the rest of the day. They split into groups, four older ones were left to work out how to use the remainder of the food they had scavenged while the other seven were set to work in following instructions to build a wide range of different shelters from a tarpaulin. After much practice they demonstrated to the Scouts how to build very warm 7 person shelter in just under 3 minutes. We then returned to our makeshift camp to polish off the buffet lunch served by ingenious use of our leftovers and final food supplies.

Afternoon saw us break camp, rescue the old man from the deserted village along with all his possessions and load up the rescue parties van (who seemed to have mysteriously vanished as quickly as they had arrived with murmurs of 3 course meals and wine). Eventually we managed to find our way back to civilization through the dense forest (and would you believe it the first building we came across was packed full of sweets, crisps, chocolate and drinks!). Once fully replenished we fought our way back and rescued the remaining adults and Scouts.

My thanks to all the Explorers who attended.. they all did very well.

- They were told to bring "any food that you could reasonably expect to find in a real life survival situation".
- I would like to know where the nearest pineapple tree, pot noodle shrub and hot cross bun bush could be found please.
- One of them developed an interesting technique to see if the lake was really frozen over which involved his forehead and knuckles.
- I've always thought a basha was designed to protect you from the elements, not collect water in a bath tub shape or protect your feet at the expense of your head.
- A chicken actually tastes surprisingly scrumptious after being in the fire for nearly 5 hours.
- Off licences don't sell fishing license apparently, you learn something new every day.

A very enjoyable weekend. The 9th are looking at putting on a 3 day survival exercise for their Explorers and Scouts next year. This was just a practice for the real thing (be warned 9th Explorers!).

Upcoming Events



Be sure to check the District and County websites for details on other events outside the group (URLs are on the front page of the newsletter).

Monopoly Run
2007 Celebrations
2007 Jamboree
Fun-o-Jam 2005

Pedal Car Olympics
Showstoppers 2005
Danish Camp 2005
South Africa Expedition 2006
Chess Competition
Mark Sutton
Chief Scout Award Presentation
Endurance Camp

Space Available

If you have anything you would like to see in your newsletter, an advert for your company, a report on an event, a photo, a drawing, a joke, some information, details of camps, anything, then please speak to Baggy.