



ISSUE 25

THE



RAM



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NEWSLETTER OF BANSTEAD SCOUTS

Tickett Talk

Welcome to *The Ram* in its new electronic, form! Every two months you will hear the news from two of our groups and find out what they have been up to. We have just completed the annual census and our figures have increased again so thank you for the great programmes that you all put on to help our young people have such a good time that they keep bringing their friends. It really makes a difference. Read on and find out what 3rd Banstead and 7th Banstead have been up to lately!

Simon Osborne the SL of Churchill Troop was the camp leader and 'expert' on the history.



3rd Banstead Scouts Go International

15 Scouts and 5 leaders from 3rd Banstead's Churchill and Marlborough Troops visited the Somme Battlefields in June 2011.

The Group camped in the field of some Banstead Scouter's near Frevent in France for a long

During the visit Scouts had the opportunity to visit a range of sites around the Somme region including the Newfoundland Memorial Park at Beaumont Hamel, and had the opportunity to walk through some of the cleared trenches at the site. The Scouts saw how access to some areas of the Somme is prohibited due to the large amounts of unexploded ordnance which remain in the fields and trenches around the area.



weekend. The Scouts who attended the visit were the senior members of both Troops who had expressed an interest in a visit to the Battlefields.



Banstead District Scout Council
President Mrs Diana Bowes
Registered Charity Number 1036740





The Scouts visited the Commonwealth War Memorial at Thiepval and tried to identify their surnames amongst the 72,194 names of officers and men from the United Kingdom and South African, who are inscribed upon the memorial. The majority of Scouts were able to find their name on the memorial, often with the same first initial as their own.

Following the visit to Thiepval, the scouts were given a tour of the reconstructed trenches at Ulster Tower and had the opportunity to understand the conditions that the troops were living in.

Following a very long first day, the Scouts returned to our camp and welcomed 25 scouts and their leaders from St Pol for an evening of games, BBQ and a camp fire. Although the Scouts were initially apprehensive, all the Scouts were soon playing and talking following a game of touch rugby and a Tug of War competition.



The next day the Scouts were up early for a hike to follow the route of a regiment through the battlefields, followed by a visit to the Hawthorn Ridge mine crater. The Scouts were amazed at the size of the crater, which was created when the Allies tunnelled under the German positions and planted over 40,000lbs of explosives. Scouts watched original film footage which showed the explosion. Following the visit to the mine crater the Scouts hiked on to the Hawthorn Ridge No.1 Cemetery which contains the memorials to the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and spent a few moments reflecting on the day.

The next day the whole group were up early to strike camp and return home by the Euro Tunnel. The trip was thoroughly enjoyed by both the Scouts and leaders. For many Scouts this was their first international visit as a Scout and gained their Union Flag and Global Challenge badges. The Scouts commented on how they had not had the same experience when visiting with their Schools, and had gained real respect of those who had died.

Adam Buckle, SL Marlborough



7th Banstead hit the Nights Away Trail!

7th Banstead Beavers, Cubs and Scouts are certainly enjoying the excitement of camping and sleepovers with a total of 26 nights spent away from home in 2011.

The year started with a well-supported January Christmas Party and sleepover for the Cubs and



Beavers with a hot tea, lots of party games, and a “midnight” walk at 9pm, (aimed at tiring them out - sort of worked!).

This was followed by a belated Christmas outing and sleepover for the scout section in February, plus a two night stay at Broadstone Warren to complete the Naturalist Badge. The leaders took March and April off, but then went into overdrive in May with a Scout two day Expedition Challenge centred around Boiderhurst, followed by two camps (Cubs and Scouts) running simultaneously on the same site during the May half term week.

This was due to four of our leadership team (two Leaders and two Young Leaders) attending the World Jamboree in Sweden, and therefore leaving annual leave at a premium.

This arrangement worked very well with the leaders arriving to set up the marquee on Friday evening, the scouts arriving to set up 4 patrol sites on Saturday morning and the cubs arriving to put their own tents up on Saturday afternoon.

The site is a farm in Angmering, Sussex which we have used for cub camps for the last 60 years, with the honour of the farmer even naming one of the fields the “Cub Field” after us. It can be quite windy as it is not far from the sea, but this year the weather was good to us. We were accompanied by “Old Akela”, Margaret Kercher, who has attended all 60 of those camps and at 85 years of age still comes along to help prepare vegetables, add up points cards, issue money and collect in receipts and generally ensure that our accounts are kept in order.

Most meals were taken separately by the two sections, and two different programmes were arranged, but the sections overlapped for visits to the beach, swimming pool, Arundel



Park and Banger Racing. Various badges were also undertaken including the Cub Scientist Badge and the Scout Camp Cook Badge and Fitness challenge. Both sections also held an open fire cooking competition, took part in rifle target shooting and enjoyed a joint wide game of “Martians” in a wooded chalk pit as nightfall came. This involved lots of silver foil discs for “cloning” earthlings, magic minerals, torches, crawling about in bushes, and terrified leaders being ambushed and chased along dark footpaths desperately trying to out run much more nimble cubs and scouts.

The Scouts also spent a day at Brighton where they all had the opportunity to go for a speedboat ride, free time on the seafront and a swim, whilst the cub section travelled off to Fishers Farm near Billingshurst for various animal sessions, and indoor and outdoor rides and activities.

The cubs all travelled home on the Thursday after a sports afternoon (involving lots of water!), whilst the scouts did an all day hike. Their camp ended on Friday afternoon after a final visit to the beach, as the weather was really nice. Many of the leaders stayed on an extra night or two and we enjoyed an evening BBQ and the chance to relax, reminisce and generally chill out.



June brought an energetic Scoutabout weekend at Ardingly, which was swiftly followed in July by a cub "First" which involved camping under the watchful eye of "The Cobra" at Chessington World of Adventures, and non-stop rides for exhausted Leaders all weekend. This was followed by the District Beaver sleepover, which was also really enjoyed; despite getting virtually no sleep all night. The Beavers were crammed like sardines in the Long Barn and lots of them got stepped on during the many (probably unnecessary!) toilet trips. The most enjoyed activities were the climbing, abseiling and archery; which lots of them were trying from the first time. One of the leaders even had a go at archery (when none of the Beavers were looking); but surprisingly, we had no adult volunteers for the abseiling!

October brought another Expedition Challenge for the Scouts, this time down at Eastbourne, plus an opportunity to obtain the Foresters Badge at a two night residential course at Broadstone Warren. The year finished on a high with another sleepover for the Cubs and Beavers. This was a Film Show evening where the cubs and beavers arrived in their pyjamas, laid out their beds and enjoyed a film show with popcorn, choc ices and drinks in the interval. A free raffle was held to win the actual DVD that had been purchased and they all enjoyed a ghost story and hot chocolate before lights out. After breakfast the next morning we played games in the hall before church parade. We hope that the sleepovers are good preparation for the Beavers towards enjoying the more adventurous camps when they move up through the sections.

Janice Barber, CL & SL 7th Banstead

Dates for your diary.

February

- 21st – District Team meeting
- 25th – 1st Response @ Nork's HQ
- 27th – Appointments Committee

March

- 3-4th Explorer Night Challenge
- 11th - Cyclocross
- 25th – 1st Response @ Scout Ridge
- 29th – GSLs meeting

April

- 10th – District Scout team meeting
- 19th - District Exec
- 22nd - St George's Day Service

May

June

- 4th - Jubilee Beacon @ Lady Neville
- 12th - District AGM @ Park Farm
- 16th - Bazzaz

July

- 5th – GSLs meeting

August

September

- 23rd – Banstead District Challenge
- 26th – County AGM

October

- 6th – District Cub Cooking Competition

November

- 18th – District Cub Bowling Competition

December

- 6th – GSLs meeting

Copy date for next issue 25th Feb 2012

Please send articles and photos to

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