



ISSUE 32

# THE



# RAM



DATE: May 2013

## NEWSLETTER OF BANSTEAD SCOUTS

### Tickett Talk

It has been an exciting term with lots of exciting things going on. Programmes during the winter months can provide challenges but the ones that I have seen have shown what an ingenious bunch our members are.

I apologise for this being a little late (it was due last month!) but it is good to hear what some of our groups have been up to. In the next edition, we will include some pictures from St George's Day Parade and the District camp, both of which have happened in the last few weeks.

Please don't forget the upcoming training dates for the SAFES course. Courses are running on 18<sup>th</sup> May and 27<sup>th</sup> June – please get in touch if you need to do one (and ALL leaders do!). I have booked dates for next year's 1<sup>st</sup> Response courses and they will come out once I have venues for them.

I have been busy thinking about how we recruit adults. To that end, and it may seem a backward step, I have been putting the District's history on the website. I hope to use this as a launch pad to get people talking about their scouting memories and then use that as a recruitment springboard. Find the link on the District's website – it is worth a look! Why not get your Beavers/Cubs/Scouts/Explorers to interview former members and send me their memories for inclusion on the site? There is a handy form you can download to prompt some conversations. I have pictures from 7<sup>th</sup> and the now closed 10<sup>th</sup> Banstead to go up on the site already! Which group can get the best looking history page on our website? Game on!

Alistair Tickett (District Commissioner)

## 1st Nork

### Beavers

1st Nork Beavers ended 2012 with a sleepover to do their Elf Training at Santa's Grotto. Beavers were greeted on arrival by Santa's personal assistant and his Elf Manager along with a happy band of Chief Elves (parent helpers), Mother Christmas came along to make sure they didn't go hungry. They donned their elf hats made the previous week and started the weekend with present wrapping training,

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

all the children wrapped a shoe box to use to take home all their goodies at the end of the experience.



Throughout the weekend they decorated cakes, made peppermint creams, prepared their own lunch, helped Santa find his lost present list, learnt and sung Christmas songs and much much more. Mother Christmas provided them with a fabulous Christmas dinner and Before bed they all settled down in their tents inside the grotto to watch a movie.



All the fun and activity was in order to earn their Elf bells and become a Santa Elf helper to be called upon whenever Santa needed some extra help. They



went to bed wondering if they had done enough! During the night Santa paid a visit and was so impressed with all they had learnt he awarded them their bells by attaching them to their elf hats and decorated them with their names. When the children woke up in the morning they were very excited to have earned their bells.



Special thanks to Charlie Stannard (Elf Manager) for organising the event, Zoe Hunnisett (Mother Christmas) and all the parent helpers without whom the children would not have earned their bells! We have also held a number of fundraising events including an xmas fair organised by the scouts and a Quiz Night which raised a total of £850 towards on-going projects at Scout Ridge.

The Group has continued to support District and County activities throughout the year.

## 1st Tadworth

### Beavers

Over the summer we followed a wide and varied programme with the Beavers. At the beginning of the term we hunted bears over a challenging course both real and imagined and then practiced our knotting on our captive. The next meeting was spent thinking about air and wind. We made Union Jack windmills, flew polystyrene gliders and finished the meeting with an energetic parachute session. In readiness for the Olympics we spent one meeting making Olympic torches which we paraded with at BAZZAZ later that month. For Father's Day the Beavers each designed a "Little Monster" to decorate cards for their dads.



We spent a lovely afternoon at Park Farm on a Smart Treasure hunt, having to empty a tube of Smarties, count and eat the contents, then refill the tube with items of the same colour that could be found in the Park Farm grounds. We are very lucky to have so many choices of where to take the Beavers for a ramble and this term we decided to walk over Epsom Downs, breaking our walk half way around to enjoy the delights of the adventure playground. Although it began to rain lightly this did not dampen our spirits and the Beavers were delighted to join in the rousing "Every Where We Go!"

Although we did manage to light one joint fire, this year our sizzled sausages were eaten in the long barn. Our final meeting was very well attended, and we all enjoyed a very competitive all comers Rounders match.





The autumn term started with excitement as we looked forward to BAZZAZ even our 5 brand new Beavers, in the meetings before the big day we had a very energetic Parachute Meeting and we all worked hard on our Emergency Aid Badge. The Beavers cooked and devoured cupcakes in one meeting and we spent a lovely afternoon at Park Farm identifying trees and making leaf and bark rubbings.



We walked through Banstead Woods for our final meeting before Half term considering the summer we have had the weather was very kind and the Beavers enjoyed a muddy expedition. After Half term we all achieved our Fitness Challenge Badge thanks to Falcon's enthusiasm. Our traditional preparations for Christmas this year began with our usual weeks of Christmas Craft which resulted in the Beavers taking home Very Glittery Tree Decorations, a Marbled Calendar, and an Origami Santa Christmas Card. The theme of our Christmas Party this year was Superheroes, the highlight of which was a very competitive snowball fight.

At the beginning of the Spring Term this year we spent an afternoon learning to recognise some of the flags of the world and introduced the Beavers to the intricacies of semaphore. As the following meeting was just before Candlemas we used this as our meeting theme and the Beavers rolled wax sheets to make candles and learnt some of the traditions associated with this day. Then we talked about how we light our lives today and the Beavers made electronic candles, or glowies, we closed our meeting with our usual prayer circle but with the lights turned off and each Beaver holding their glowie.



Of course we devoted one entire meeting to the joys of Shrove Tuesday which made for a very memorable investiture this term. We are looking forward to making a small gift for Mother's Day, and a visit from the RNLI and finally an Easter Treasure Hunt.

### Scouts Kayak Troop

#### Deer Butchery

I had Davy Crockett move in next door to me. He offered blow darts and spear chucking but for the time being we settled on rabbit butchery and tanning their hides. Come the day the rabbits were nowhere to be seen (wise bunnies). So Crockett culled two deer. Not everyone turned up and not everyone survived the whole session. We did find some natural and very enthusiastic butchers in the troop. Keep your pet Bunnies under lock and key in Tadworth!



#### Scuba



Another fun night at London Scuba at Lingfield. Their underwater camera worked well. Some of the kids got bored when they weren't in the pool and though it would be good fun to throw others socks in the pool. Silvy, one of our leaders, took it quite well really.

#### Air researcher badge



We stumbled upon opportunities to build model planes and visit Brooklands museum. (Two unsuspecting volunteers). Putting the two together gave the kids an opportunity to complete the Air Researcher's badge. (well those that could be bothered to do any research anyway). We like investing kids in unusual places. Previously we've done them upside down on a trapeze, underwater and up a climbing wall. Doing it In Concorde seemed too good an opportunity to miss.



## **Dates for your Diary**

### **April**

21<sup>st</sup> – St George's Day Parade

### **May**

3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> District Camp

18<sup>th</sup> – SAFES

### **June**

15<sup>th</sup> - SCRAM

18<sup>th</sup> – District AGM

27<sup>th</sup> SAFES

### **July**

5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> – County Scout Camping  
Competition

8<sup>th</sup> July – GSL Meeting@Tatts

### **October**

5<sup>th</sup> – District Scout Cooking  
Competition

**Copy date for next issue 1st June 2013**

**Please send articles and photos to**

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