



ISSUE 31

THE



RAM



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NEWSLETTER OF BANSTEAD SCOUTS

Tickett Talk

What an exciting year it has been so far! The results of the census are in and the District has grown in number to 811 members. That is an increase across the District of 5% on last year. What a great achievement everybody!

Many of our sections are as full as they can be and so that leads us to think about opening new sections. To do that, we need to find more leaders and several groups are already working through their parent lists to see what potential there is.

We also need help at Explorer level. We urgently need to open a 3rd unit and need adult help to make it happen. Do you know anyone suitable?

I have been looking at the development plans that the groups have all put forward – there is some visionary thinking out there!

The Movement is looking to reach a more diverse group of members in the next few years as well as ensure our young people are playing a leading role in the growth and development of the groups. We are also looking to play a role in the wider community so look out for developments on all of these fronts.

We started the band back in May 2012, after we noticed that several members of the 1st Tadworth Kayaks Scout Troop had achieved various stages of the Musician's Badge. The boys were keen and The Arctic Scout Band was born, with 2 trumpets, an alto saxophone, 2 guitars and a drummer. I decided to help out on the keyboard and Christine volunteered to lead the band.

We are a concert band – we tried marching, but the guitarists got tangled up in their leads. The drummer and I struggled too!

Richard Hackett, County Band Adviser, has been very helpful and arranged for us to visit other bands to get some ideas. Alistair has been very supportive too.

We learned a few tunes and have played twice to the parents. We got very brave and performed in 'Tadworth's Got Talent' in November! We play quite a mix of music – early numbers included, 'James Bond Theme', 'We are the Champions' and 'Match of the Day'. We take suggestions from the band, so new songs this term include 'Eye of the Tiger', 'I Need a Dollar' and 'Happy Birthday' and one of Christine's favourites, 'Colonel Bogey'.

We're delighted that we now have 2 new members – a singer and another keyboard player (I'm now redundant) and we would love to recruit more from Cubs, Scouts and Explorers. So, if you can play an instrument and read music, please contact me on 0771 958 0142.

Your Scout Band Needs You!



Do you play a musical instrument? The Arctic Scout Band needs you!



Jim Illingworth
1st Tadworth Kayaks Scout Leader

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



Park Farm

Park Farm has seen many changes over the years which, apart from its size, has made it comparable with many of the big sites in terms of activities, with the added bonus of the beautiful woodlands surrounding it. However there is one activity that is missing, a shooting range!

None of the projects at Park Farm have been easy and building a shooting range is no exception. Money was its biggest obstacle, but thanks to the support and kind generosity of Sophie's Fund, we are now in a position to move forward and start construction.

Unlike the archery range and the climbing tower, this time the council are insisting on planning permission and following a meeting recently, Colin has offered to deal with that frustrating issue

Once (if) approved the aim is to have a 15m in door range with the option of various shooting distances and in different positions, we really want to make this a challenging activity. Hopefully, in the future, we can hold district shooting competitions for all ages, including leaders.

Building the range will be no mean feat. Sourcing the building has been a laborious job trying to find a building that will be in keeping with the site but also not require masses of maintenance, but most importantly is within in the budget. It has been a long time coming: in early 2010 I started pushing for a shooting range but money has always been the issue.

As for the rest of the site, it is a full time job and you can always find projects or improvements that need doing. We have been slowly renovating the rooms. After we finished building the tower we started on the round barn and then the archery store and range, the warden's office then the leaders' room and last year the kitchen. Our future plans after the shooting range are to give the long barn a coat of paint and then start renovating the toilets. Our main aim is to lag all the pipes to prevent having to turn off the water in the winter so the site can really be an all year round site, but as with many charities, our biggest obstacle is money.

I shall continue to strive with my team to make the site as appealing to its users as it has always been

Mark Wingett

3rd Banstead

2012 has been a busy year for the 3rd Banstead Scout Group. The programmes in all of our Sections have been fun and exciting, with many members continuing to earn their Chief Scouts Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards. Our Scout section continues to grow, and plans are in place for the expansion of Scout Ridge to meet this need, with an expectation of 80 members split between our two troops in the coming months. With this in mind, recruiting leaders remains a high priority for the Group.

We have had a number of working days for group members to perform service at Scout Ridge, including a day spent painting the sports hall, and carrying out clearance work on the grounds outside. In addition Group members have continued to support the Downlands Trust by attending their volunteering events including the 'Rhody Round-Up' in Banstead Woods in February. As a result many members have earned their Group Environmental Award.

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.

Cubs

Our three Cub packs (Oak, Ash and Elm) have continued to run varied programmes and have recruited a number of new leaders. Activities throughout the year are different in all three packs, with a number of shared events throughout the year including an inter-pack athletics competition, sleepover and summer camp.

Summer Cub Camp

Ash, Elm and Oak pack descended on East Grinstead for our annual cub camp. The four day camp was attended by 38 cubs. After leaving their parents at the car park, the cubs carried their kit down the hill to where we were camping. Once there, the cubs were introduced to the leaders allocated their sixes and were given instructions about what was to happen next. The instructions were immediately forgotten as the Cubs were instructed to put up their tents.

Every year the camp is given a theme around which the activities are built. This year the theme was Dr Who.



After weeks of heavy rain we were all relieved to find that day one was fine and the lovely weather continued for the whole camp.

As part of the theme, the cubs took part in a number of craft activities including the making of scarves, sonic screwdrivers with a working light, masks, and Dr Who's favourite companion K9.

Each day of the camp, cubs were responsible for fulfilling a number of camp duties including the collection of wood to cook the meals, preparing vegetables, writing a flag, log and prayer, and kitchen washing-up.



We are fortunate to have the use of a swimming pool, which gave cubs the opportunity to have a daily swim (and hopefully some sort of wash) and earn their swimming badges.

Other activities during the four day camp included crazy sports, string trails, backwoods cooking, wide games, geo-caching, archery, obstacle course and mind games.



Claire Torkington – ACSL Oak Pack



The cubs enjoyed the camp and went home tired and, hopefully, happy. As usual camp would not have been able to happen without the support of leaders, scouts and helpers who ran activities, did the cooking, emptied toilets and generally worked hard to ensure the cubs had a great time and were well looked after.

Scouts

Our two Scout Troops have had a busy year and continue to grow in size due to the number of cubs moving on from our three cub packs. With numbers of Scouts between our two Troops expecting to grow to 80 in the next few months, some significant challenges lay ahead.

Summer Scout Camp

Thirty three Scouts attended our annual summer Scout Camp, which this year took place at Buddens Farm, in Dorset at the end of August for seven nights. The weather was mixed, but it didn't dampen the spirit of the Scouts. The Scouts camped together in their five Patrols in a traditional Patrol Camp. The Scouts responsibilities included cooking for their patrols and the leaders on an open fire, as well as maintaining their individual sites. Activities during the week included tunnelling in Buddens man made tunnelling complex, climbing, abseiling, dragon boating, a high ropes experience on the Burnbake Course (the largest high ropes course in the south of England), a trip to Bovington Tank Museum, and an all day hike on from Corfe Castle to Swanage on the Isle of Purbeck, followed by a return journey on the steam train.



7th Banstead



Scout Fundraiser

Both Troops took part in our annual fundraiser raising over £350. Scouts prepared a variety of fair stalls ranging from tin can alleys to cake stalls. Group members, friends and family were invited down to Scout Ridge and took part in the activities, making a small donation. All proceeds went towards on-going projects at Scout Ridge.

Scuba Diving

Both Troops attended a PADI Discover Scuba Diving course at Lingfield. The course included a short briefing on safety and equipment, followed by a 45 minute dive in the 3.5m deep pool.



All Scouts who attended had a fantastic time, with quotes including 'that was awesome. I've never done anything like that in my life' and 'that was the most fun I've ever had'. All the Scouts who attended were awarded their water sports badge.

Adam Buckell – SL Marlborough Troop

2012 was another action packed year for 7th Banstead Scout Group. Currently running at full capacity with 24 Beavers, 26 Cubs and 25 Scouts, but with a distinct shortage of leaders in the scout section. Any volunteers please?

Beavers

For the Beavers, as ever, it's been a busy year, working on a range of badges indoors and trying to visit some interesting places too. We've been to Pets at Home (where we scared some guinea pigs) and to a Surrey Wildlife site (where we got drenched). We also had great fun at Bazaaz the County beaver Fun Day.

We've also made hot chocolate drinks and marshmallow lollipops for Father's Day, and Halloween spider cakes. We've tie-dyed tee-shirts. We had a film night and sleepover in preparation for Christmas; when we watched Arthur Christmas. The highlight of the event for the children was the excitement of the blocked toilets. But you can always trust a Scout leader to have drainage rods in his van, so all ended well!!!

The Beavers also made Christmas table decorations for the lunch for the older people at church. We used paper plates as the base, plus a huge amount of tinsel and glitter. Several of the Beavers were concerned about how the diners would manage to eat their lunch off the plates ☺

Coming up is a visit to the local Fire Station (leaders have to have fun too!). We'll also be learning about knots and making pizzas, though not on the same night.

We're lucky to have lots of leaders at the moment and some very willing parent helpers. It makes our 24 Beavers seem almost manageable.....



Cubs

According to our Cubs the highlights for 2012 have included a visit from the Olympic Torch, making Diamond Jubilee Pizzas, a mini hike and a torch walk, plus the District Cub Fun Day, Cooking competition and Bowling Competition and most of all a very wet but fun filled games evening at Park Farm, finishing with an enjoyable but extremely muddy water slide!

We have also enjoyed doing an assortment of badges over the year including Home Safety, Communicator and the highly popular Animal Carer Badge. This culminated in a pack night Pet Show for both live pets, and for those without a pet, their favourite cuddly animal toy, with each entrant earning a certificate in one of the various weird and wonderful categories. The Naturalist badge was also good fun, with the cubs hunting for bugs to identify, which then proceeded to escape whilst they were trying to draw them, resulting in a host of creepy crawlies now ensconced somewhere in our HQ! Another popular badge was the DIY Badge which was completed with the help of B&Q at Sutton, where the youngsters made various wooden items, which they really enjoyed.

The cubs have also benefited from a variety of nights away in 2012; from the joint Cub & Beaver Party and Sleepover, that included party games, a cooked tea, a "midnight" torch walk, breakfast and



church parade the next day, to the Film Show Sleepover where bodies in sleeping bags enjoyed popcorn and choc ices as they watched "Arthur Christmas", whilst Baloo and Stuart worked in pouring rain to unblock the drains!

In May we held our annual camp at Angmering which included swimming, the map readers badge, making miniature gardens, cake baking over open fires, banger racing, shooting, hand & foot painting, a Diamond Jubilee Campfire and visits to Arundel Park and Earnley Butterfly and Bird Gardens (well recommended as a day trip).

Scouts

According to our Scouts the highlights for 2012 have included various cooking evenings (both indoors and out), the District Scout Cooking Competition, (probably because our team came 1st), the Surrey Cyclocross cycle racing competition, making Diamond pizzas, swimming, a skateboard challenge involving pioneering skills, and a Blindfold Drop where we took them out blindfolded and "dumped" them at various start points in the dark, with a map of the general area, and instructions to find out where they were and then make their own way back to the HQ! Amazingly they all made it!

The scouts have spent nine nights away this year. A sleepover at the end of February involved an energetic evening "Donutting", i.e. coming down a ski slope in a rubber tyre and then pulling it to the top and going down again. Very exhausting but brilliant fun! Our "Chill Out" Patrol camp at Park Farm gave the new scouts a taste of proper patrol camping and included an all day cycling event on the Saturday, with "chill out" time in the evening. In August it was off to our annual camp held this year at Bushy Wood in Hailsham, Sussex where activities included a cooking competition, swimming, mini crossbows, climbing and abseiling, a traverse wall, cycling, a visit to Knockhatch Adventure Park, an evening Banger racing and a day hike to the sea which resulted in a visit to A&E with a weaver fish sting. For those of you who have



never come across this before, placing the foot in a bucket of hot water (as hot as you can stand) is the remedy. Had Raksha known this at the time then it would have saved her and Max a three hour wait in A&E where by the time they got seen the swelling and pain had diminished. So much for the triage system..... they could have been in and out in 15 minutes!

Finally the scouts community service has been in evidence this year with two Saturday mornings



collecting litter for the Burgh Heath Residents Association, cooking and serving Sunday lunch for church members who would normally eat alone and completing 45 shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child. This busy year has resulted in four Beavers earning their Bronze Chief Scout Awards, three cubs earning their Silver Chief Scout Awards, and eight scouts earning their Gold Chief Scout Awards this year. Well done!

Janice Barber - Scout & Cub leader.

Dates for your Diary

March

18th – GSL Meeting@Walton
23rd – 1st Response

April

21st – St George's Day Parade

May

3rd-5th District Camp

June

15th - SCRAM
18th – District AGM

July

5th-7th – County Scout Camping
Competition
8th July – GSL Meeting@Tatts

October

5th – District Scout Cooking
Competition

Copy date for next issue 1st April 2013
Please send articles and photos to
lenbutler@aol.com