

5th Beckenham South Annual Report for year ending March 2008

A very successful year for the Fifth Beckenham South saw 2 changes in Leadership for the beavers as Mike Croft took over from Rodney and then handed the reins over to Lisa Stratford as he left us to go to Hendon to start his police training.

Beaver activities included a trip to Diggerland, a riot with the local police and some tennis balls and all the usual glitter, glue and mayhem.

The cub packs led by Phil Cole and Keeley Dawe had an action packed year with a winter camp added to the programme for the first time. They cooked a banquet for their parents, they visited the traffic police at Catford and as well as their usual camp at Whitsun, they did cooked on fires, built catapults from bamboos, made waterslides and had a raingutter regatta (a regutter!) which involved making small sailing boats and racing them along a course made from guttering. The cub leaders are assisted by Tim Banfield, Andy Dawe, Adam Young and young leaders including Oliver Colville.

The scout section flourished under the leadership of Chris Elmer and Rob Prendergast. Summer Camp included a visit to the world scout jamboree in Chelmsford and we were lucky enough to see three of our members attend that as part of the UK contingent.

The troop had a camp on Narrowboat Rosanne, Went to the Docklands for a water sports day, went shooting at Bisley, competed in the local camping competition, contested the district 5-a-side tournament, went powerboating, attended the National Mass at St George's, Southwark, Camped wild at below freezing and also had a full programme on a troop night.

The Vultures explorer unit was born in 2007 and led by Harry Marshall and Chris Elmer, they made their first steps that included a Christmas Camp, a murder mystery night and slowly managed to develop a programme to keep the members happy. The hunt for an explorer leader continued!

Much of the group's efforts were spent in fundraising for its 2008 trip to Switzerland. Grants from the Petchey Foundation, the Leslie Sell Trust, The Beckenham Round Table, a raffle as well as income from bag packing and other fundraisers was specifically intended for this event. Without these donations the trip would be impossible and the group gratefully acknowledge the support given by these organisations.

This has been an excellent year for the group and we are grateful to the efforts of the leaders and executive members who have seen our numbers grow in every section. We are lucky to have the support of our parents who deliver their children to events all around the South East of England and make sure that their children are available for fundraising as well as the more exciting parts of the programme.