



**5TH BECKENHAM SOUTH SCOUT GROUP
AND VULTURES EXPLORER UNIT**

"EVERY CHILD DESERVES AN ADVENTURE" - BEAR GRYLLS - CHIEF SCOUT



5th Beckenham South Scout Group Trustees Annual Report

2010-2011

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thefifth.org.uk

Beaver Scouts Report 2010 – April 2011.

We started the year with 28 Beaver Scouts and quickly settled into our weekly meetings. The Beavers discussed and agreed rules for meetings. We looked at the different badges that the children could earn and discussed ideas for meetings.

In February, The Explorer scouts came along to a meeting to make bird feeders with the Beavers, The meeting was fun and extremely messy, each child got to take a feeder home.

In March, we replaced our usual meeting with a meeting at Gambado's in Beckenham. 19 Beavers attended, along with their families and a few even tried the Climbing wall. Everyone had a great time and all of the children went home happy and exhausted.

17th April. Our spring trip this year was to Legoland. With the assistance of 5 Leaders and two parent helpers, 18 Beavers were able to experience a great day out. The sun shone and despite it raining all day at home, we all returned with sunburnt noses!

On the 19th June, 6 Leaders and 12 Beavers visited Gilwell Park for a funday.

The Beavers tried Prussiking, Archery, and a range of craft activities as well as playing on Pedal Carts. There was also a range of attractions such as an airplane simulator and a chance to get a close look at a Ferrari. Each child was given a hot wheels fun pack and the day was concluded with funfair rides.

Our annual summer Sleepover took place at Wilberforce scout camp on 4th July and we had a Wild West theme. Beavers made Totem poles, Indian Head dresses and painted each other faces with war paint! We made alter fires and created smoke signals as well as building Tepees. There was a keep fit session in the form of Line dancing and this was enjoyed by all of the leaders, helpers and children that took part. After games and Lasso's with Ratty, it was time to say goodbye to our 20 grubby and tired Beavers.

In July, we concluded the term with a water meeting where the Beavers had water relay games and everyone had a great time sliding down the water slide. We awarded the Chief Scout Bronze award to two of our Beavers.

On the 13th October, Jim Foster from 'Scout med' came along to teach the Beavers about Emergency First Aid. Jim amused the children with gory tales and instructed them on how to use the recovery position. Everyone participated in the meeting and the children discussed a variety of emergency situations and ways to deal with them.

24 children earned their First Aid 1 badge and took their new found skills home to show their parents!

In September we took part in a group charity event. The Beavers had a sponsored silence where they were silent for over 15 minutes. A truly remarkable feat. The group was able to make enough money to purchase a shelter box and the children were able to track the box to its final destination.

On Friday 17th September, we had a Beaver Sleepover at Downe Activity Camp. The children went on a hike, made small fires and cooked smores (which proved to be very popular) Bagheera from Chil pack came along and instructed the Beavers on how to be safe around the camp fires as well as eating his fair share of smores! The Beavers took part in an Archery session and had great fun playing on the adventure course.

November found us having our usual Firework night bonfire. The beavers made a huge guy, enjoyed sparklers and got to make their own hot chocolate. Remembrance parade took place on Sunday 14th and 20 Beavers attended.

Squirrel arranged our annual trip to the Panto at the Assembly rooms in West Wickham and the West Wickham players came up trumps again with their fantastic performance of Sleeping Beauty. Although it snowed heavily, the room was packed with people and a good time was had by all.

Our Christmas sleepover took place at Wilberforce Scout Camp on 5th Dec.

The leaders arrived to find the entrance to the camp knee deep in snow and quickly went about shovelling the snow away to give the cars access to the site.

18 children arrived for the sleepover despite the snow. We took full advantage of the weather conditions and had a great time, sledging, making snow men (and beavers) and of course, throwing snowballs. The leaders came off slightly worse than the Beavers.

Over 24 hours, the Beavers made a variety of Christmas decorations and presents. A children's entertainer came along in the evening to amaze the children with his magic tricks and the sleepover was concluded with a walk through the snow to Jims Cabin where Santa was waiting to greet each child with a present. A truly magical time for the Beavers and leaders. We concluded the term with a Christmas party. The Beavers enjoyed playing traditional games and dancing.

2011 marked the 25th Anniversary of Beaver Scouts.

In February we returned to Gambado's for a meeting having had such a good time the year before.

The Reptile man made a visit to the Scout hut on Saturday 19th March and brought with him some Bearded Dragons, An African Bullfrog, A 13ft Python and a Salamander. He also brought a Tarantula spider which wasn't received as well by some of the female leaders! The children learned about each reptile, about what they eat and how to care for them.

It was a very hands on session and 20 Beavers received their Animal Care badge.

In April, We were invited by the Beckenham Scout District to a Saint Georges Day Celebration at Tiepigs Lane. The Roal Dahl Players entertained the children with their modern day versions of traditional fairytales and the children were encouraged to participate by singing and calling out. A very noisy but fun event for both children and leaders. The evening was concluded by a presentation of awards by the District Commissioner Jeff Ross-Myring and Badger (Lisa) was awarded her wood badge.

Cubs section annual report April 2010 – April 2011

A successful year in all with a full program of activities tailored towards the Silver Chief Scout award teaching the Cubs such Scout skills as codes, navigation, local knowledge, basic knots and fire lighting as well as plenty of meetings programmed just for fun with joint pack wide games at Frylands wood, a visit to Keston British Transport Police dog kennels arranged by King Louis and lots of games nights run by the sixers and the Young Leaders alike keeping in mind their Duke of Edinburgh requirements.

We also tackled subjects where Scout skills cross into life skills such as fitness challenge, water conservation games and a visit from a rather lovely guide dog and her handler as arranged by Helen.

Our Whitsun camp, May 2010 was themed as Wild West Whitsun and utilised the Groups newly purchased Tee Pees, Cubs took part in rifle shooting, archery, river crossing and making ranch bread amongst other activities. The camp was an outstanding success with a slightly sad ending as we said goodbye to Balloo so that he could move on to Explorers, however all was not lost, we did gain Debbie who having attended Whitsun 2009 as a parent helper now stands shoulder to shoulder with Helen as our Chil pack ACSL and compliments the leadership team with energy, enthusiasm and an unrivalled affinity with the Cubs.

In July we held our first Silver Chief Scout Award presentation evenings, a culmination of hard work and attendance from the Cubs saw 20 of them move on to Scouts with the highest award they can earn in Cubs.

The winter months saw the Cubs learning about global issues and they raised money for ShelterBox through sponsored abstinence, bag packing and donation. Our Christmas camp took the Shelterbox theme and Cubs were dumped in the woods of Downe with a makeshift shelterbox and asked to survive. They erected tents, lit fires

and boiled water to make soup ... all in the snow I might add, we let them back indoors after a few hours for a full Christmas dinner followed by movies and popcorn.

April 2011 marked the end of our first rotation of program as a section without the guidance of Phil who bravely now leads the Explorers, all things considered I think we nailed it having learnt from the master.

Scout Section Report: 2010-2011

The scouts kicked off in April 2011 with a fantastic trip to the Gravesend Police Training School. We looked around the ranges and had a tour of the armoury and museum - the highlight for man was the interactive video trainer that allowed users to re-enact hostage situations. Thanks to Jim Bailey for organising it. Our first camp of the year was at Tolmers. The plan was to take the scouts to Dorset for a greenfield Summer Camp so we got our regular dose of Tolmers at their Patrol Activity Weekend. We filled up the Summer with Narrowboating for the Patrol Leaders, a trip to Thorpe Park and a brilliant event at HopeHill Campsite that involved laser-tag guns in the woods.

Andy Dawe ran a back to basics camp at frylands wood with the help of some young leaders. The scouts slept out in shelters that they had built in the woods. All of this was leading up to a greenfield camp in Dorset. The troop camped near Corfe castle and had a memorable week around the area. Trips off-site included Monkey World, the Tank Museum, Swanage RNLI, Zorbing at Winchester, Portland Bill, Weymouth, Corfe Castle, Splash Landings and the lifeguarded beach at Bournemouth. On site there was archery, shooting, karting, a huge water slide as well as a hike plus a failed trip to Brownsea island (Chris's fault). The camp was a wonderful success thanks to the leadership team of young leaders and adults who worked so hard to make it awesome.

The Autumn Term included a ski-ing taster session run by the county (big thanks to Fran Georgel) and all the standard silliness at the hut. As usual, we had a wonderful turnout at the Remembrance day Parade as well as for the litter collection after the Beckenham Round Table Fireworks. Both of these are events that the whole group supports. We were sad to wave goodbye to some of our PLs but we awarded a big batch of Chief Scouts Gold Awards before they left.

Rob Prendergast was greatly missed this year. It was hard to run everything without him and his absence was keenly felt by both the leaders and the young people; he is remembered frequently in our prayers. The scarf that hangs in the cabinet above the door of the hut is the scarf that lay on the coffin at his funeral and is a prompt to all of us to offer up a prayer, both in his memory and for those of us who miss him.

Another wonderful year at the Fifth but urgent attention is now being given to our expanding numbers, the time has come for a second troop and recruitment for a new leadership team is underway.

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