



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

**"EVERY CHILD DERSESERVES AN ADVENTURE" - BEAR GRYLLS - CHIEF SCOUT**



**5<sup>th</sup> Beckenham South Scout Group  
Trustees Annual Report**

**2011-2012**

**reg. charity number 1011301**

**[thefifth.org.uk](http://thefifth.org.uk)**

# Beavers

We started off the year with a meeting full of outside games and finished off the evening by investing 6 new Beavers.

We ran our Beaver programme according to the weather and we held our meetings outside as we have a selection of games that the Beavers love to play. These could be any of the following Spider Tag, Traffic Lights, Sharks & Islands, Dodge Ball, Stuck in the Mud.

In between the games we also held other activities; we asked the Beavers to design a poster to promote Healthy Eating which went towards their badge credit. This was prior to the weekend of the Beaver Funday held at Heartease on 22nd May where Beavers had a fun filled day and brought their healthy packed lunch.

We also held a Beaver Sleepover at Wilberforce Scout Camp on 4th June and this was a family fun camp and parents came along on the Saturday to try firelighting/archery and knots.

We had a big family bbq and the children ended the day with a disco. Everyone slept in tents and the sun shone.

Our planned meeting to the Fire Station unfortunately was cancelled due to "A Shout" so we took the Beavers to Croydon Recreation ground instead where a great time was had by all.

We also tried an Archery meeting but decided that an hour really wasn't long enough to ensure everyone had a long enough time firing the arrows and decided to leave this to sleepovers/fundays.

We held a giant bubble meeting where Beavers used a special mixture to create giant bubbles, we held a Sports Day meeting and then finished the term with the usual Water Slide meeting.

September saw the Beavers sorted into new Lodges and a host of games and Lodge inspections were held. Rice Krispie cakes were made and hand print fish pictures were created. Giant paper aeroplanes were made and raced across the hall too.

We joined the Group Camp at Down on 7th October and we also took the Beavers on a trip to London to see the Aquarium and had a walk along the Embankment seeing the street entertainers on 22nd October.

We had a Xmas Funday held at Heartease on 20th November where the theme was tinsel/lights and glitter!! Christmas crafts and sweets were made and enjoyed by all.

We went to our usual Xmas Panto at Gates Green Road and saw the production of "Goldilocks and the Three Bears" with the usual panto banter and cheer.

In the New Year we had a sleeping bag challenge to teach the Beavers to stuff sleeping bags into their sacks in preparation of their sleepovers, together with various activities in the first quarter of the year such as; make your own musical instruments, building plastic structures with plastic cups; plant your own plant for Mothers Day and they also made shredded wheat nests for chocolate eggs.

## Cubs

We kicked off after the Easter holiday with two joint pack meetings, the first at Queen's Mead recreation ground where we had a friendly game of rounders and the second at Frylands Woods for some wide games during which King Louis' throne was defended against his evil brother Sir Cornelius. This allowed Cubs from both packs to meet each other and the other pack leaders and led us nicely into our medieval themed Whitsun camp where the cubs enjoyed a taster of kayaking, go karting and a birds of prey afternoon amongst many other activities. Our summer term saw the group's newly qualified archery instructors provide evenings instruction to both packs encouraging and enabling Cubs to complete their Outdoor Challenges.

As autumn drew in our program continued to address the 6 Challenges with navigation, first aid level 2 and a particular success in Andy's glow stick rockets. In fact the creative side of our leadership didn't stop there as in the spring term Debbie put everyone's blow football pitches to shame with her demonstration model and the Cubs had a couple of very good evenings' entertainment out of them.

We did of course run a Christmas camp as usual, having been to Downe in October for group camp we turned to Frylands Wood where the cubs did both backwoods and orienteering activities as well as manage to paint each other and generally have a great camp.

As we approached the start of the summer months we had a visit from the RNLI where the Cubs learned all about their work, their history and the volunteers who run the organisation, as well as some important water and beach safety. As a follow up to the visit, the leaders indulged ourselves in an evening out on the river having a guided tour of Tower Pier lifeboat station.

## Scouts

The year kicked off for us with overflowing numbers from Chil and Rikki Packs feeding up to our Troop and a concerted hunt for a leadership team for a second troop.

During the year, we filled our Thursday nights with the usual mix of silliness and scout skills. These activities included Apprentice Night, a visit from the Royal

Marines Visibility Team, World Trading Night, Edible Rafts (made from sweets) as well as lots of fires and being outside with another Summer spent entirely outdoors.

In May we took the troop to the Docklands Scout Project for one of their brilliant Open Days which managed to sit in a break in the (dreadful) weather.

We took both scouts and explorers to the Malvern Challenge in July and despite a broken down minibus on the way home, the trip was a great success and our biggest worry was making sure we had enough sun block!

Summer camp for the troop and unit was spent in Kandersteg. Two years of planning came together during 9 days at the International Scout Centre in Switzerland.

While most of the group flew out, we took a bunch of explorers and young adults out by minibus with kit to see us through the week.

We stayed in the Sunneblick Lodge and the Old Chalet and were catered by the staff. Activities while we were out there included: the toboggan run, day trip to berne, a day at Oeschinensee, the glacier Workshop, the High Ropes Course, A Fondue Night, the Light Trail, the international Campfire, Mountain Biking, Climbing Workshops and the Three Valleys Hike. We pulled out all the stops for our Swiss National Day stall with prawn crackers, a tuck shop, shove ha'penny, and a Pimms Bar. This was a brilliant trip and has been described as the best-ever camp by many of the participants.

September started back with Don and Simon coming along to our thursday night meetinfs as we prepared to launch a Friday Troop. Thunder troop meet on Thursday and Simon's Lightning troop meet on a Friday with help from Don, Elaine, Alex, Mike and others. Thunder's team includes: Chris, Oliver, Louis, Jack, Mike, Nick, Sam, Mark, Robert and others. Finances have been managed brilliantly by Kate Hilton. (No slight intended on anybody missed out... )

The activities shared between the two troops included mini catapults, chinese new year, pancakes, airfix modelling and a very succesful Ski School run on saturdays with help from Fran from the 7th WW. Lightning have included air rifles in their programme too. The teams visited Thanet in January as they planned the 2012 Summer camp at Betteshanger.

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