Issue 18

June 2000

Akela's Shout

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE 9TH DAGENHAM SCOUT GROUP

Akela says...

Hello everyone, Hope this issue of the Shout finds you well and preparing yourselves for a lovely hot summer (I hope).

As you all know we did not manage to prepare a Shout for May as we were at camp, but hopefully you all received a copy of the information letters that I sent.

The millennium camp, weather wise, was one of the worst I have attended in all my 16 years as a Cub Scout leader. So if this was your son/daughters first camp, then as the saying goes "Things can only get better". Hopefully we will have some articles about the camp from the boys and girls that attended.

I am sorry if there is any inconvenience caused by the closure of the large hall for 12 weeks but this is beyond my control. We will not be changing to a Friday night. However because of ongoing problems with the Vicar we are still trying to find another hall close by that can accommodate all sections on a Tuesday. So if you know of anywhere please let me, Baggy or Mr T. know.

For those going to camp on Friday 26 May at Thriftwood we would be very grateful if you could bring your son/daughter to the campsite between 7:00 and 7:30 p.m. as the leaders we already be there. If you are unable to do this please let us know.

Well done to John Gazely, Callum Sparrow and Billy Marbe on gaining the 3 stages of the swimming badge.

See you all soon

Akela.

Does anyone recognise this strange man that was digging up the ground on a tuesday night?

Scout Rally

We had one patrol represent the group on a particularly dismal day. Despite the pouring rain they showed great enthusiasm and spirit and killed themselves laughing at being unable to even light the match box let alone the fire! Well done.

Cub Badge Day

We had four cubs turn up at the university swimming pool along with around 25 others from the district. Almost every cub that swam managed to achieve all three stages of their badge. Well done to those who gained their swimming stages.

Incident Hike

Well the leaders were there...what about you Scouts? The district had 5 patrols enter on a 9 mile course around 5 incident bases. The weather was lovely and the patrols done very well. An excellent day.

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Special points of interest:

- *Cubs and Scouts are camping at the weekend.*
- *Cubs have a week camp in August*
- *5-a-side teams will be decided upon soon*
- *Cubs and Scouts will be meeting at Hargreaves for the next two weeks (pickup and drop at hall)*
- *Ideas and suggestions for Tue night outings are gratefully received*
- *Mobile Phones should not be brought to Scouting events. Those who have them should hand them to a leader for the duration of the event.*

A “Bring your own canoe” camp....

Millennium camp was, to say the least, a little wet and muddy. Over the course of the weekend dismal weather and poor drainage turned the site into a mudbath. With poor water drainage and heavy rain the water was seeping up under the dome tents and making the groundsheet damp and cold. The actual site was almost knee deep in mud in places. There was not quite as many activities as I had expected and there was nowhere to let off steam. Sometimes we had periods of waiting for the next event with little to do. But you know what? It didn’t matter. I think that all of us at camp enjoyed ourselves over the weekend. There were some great opportunites to have a go at events like rifle shooting, gatt guns, computers, ice skating, (yes, ice skating!) as well as silly things like the buggy race, gate competition and the obligatory assault course. Yeah it was cold and wet at times, but it will be on some camps. The real test as a scout is whether you sit around moaning about everything and all that goes wrong or if you turn it into a laugh and joke, shrug it off and get on with things as best you can.

Scouts will be reminded of their Scout Law.

“A scout has courage in all difficulties”

“A scout makes good use of his time…”

At times I was cold, wet and hungry at camp but it didn’t really matter. We just got on, made our own entertainment, made full use of the activities and got down to some real camping.

As Akela has said, if you can survive a camp like that and still see the bright side then you will really begin to appreciate what scouting can offer you, especially when the weather is better!

A prize for whoever can tell me what cub is receiving their badge in this picture.

Out and about

With the closure of the hall the group has brought forward its plans to get out and about a bit more (we don’t have much choice now!). For the first three weeks the cubs and scouts are meeting over Hargreaves Campsite.

There we can take the opportunity to put the ‘out’ back into ‘Scouting’. The first week both sections practised a spot of firelighting. Firelighting is not as easy a skill as it sounds. Most people could light a fire using a newspaper or such like but being able to light a fire with naturally occurring materials to hand is normally a different kettle of fish. It takes a good deal of practice (years even) before you can confidently light a fire with ease. That’s before you try to do it in a force 9 gale and driving winds with nothing but wet wood to hand. However, having seen the basic concept and with some of them having done it before the cubs performed very well and lit all three of theirs. We wont mention how the scouts did though…

“Can I have another match please Bags?”

“How many you had?”

“Only 17...”

7 socks, 27 T-Shirts, 1 pair of shorts, non-waterproof coat, gameboy, video, TV, 57 bags of sweets, teddy bear....

With this issue of Akela’s Shout you should find a kit list for camp (Cubs and Scouts). Please have a look through the list and see if you have anything to add.

With the recent millennium camp and the upcoming camps lets have a quick look at some of the items. Those who went to millennium camp will learn a couple of useful facts. **No matter** what the weather is going to be like, make sure you bring some **waterproof** clothes (not your ordinary coat. Outdoors in the driving rain and wind your in-town ‘waterproof’ coat will get soaked). If possible a set of waterproofs (trousers and top as well as good, waterproof boots/wellies). Also make sure all the clothes/shoes are old ones that you wont mind getting completely ruined.

Torches should be supplied with spare batteries (they almost always get confiscated on the first night after the cubs have playing with them for an hour!).

We do actually feed your little cherubs at camp so copious amounts of sweets and food are not necessary and are normally confiscated again. Gameboys etc are taken at your own risk.

Remember: Mobile Phones and Pokemon cards are not allowed at camp!

June 2000

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9 *Cub Athletes Badge Day*	10 *Cub/Scout 5-a-side and Beaver 7-a-side Football*	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 *Beavers Walton Trip / Cub & Scout Sports Day*
26	27	28	29	30		

Beavers

- **Sat 10 June** - 7-a-side Football Competition at May & bakers sports ground, Dagenham Road, Dagenham. Arrive at 9 a.m. for 9:30 a.m. start. See Mr T., Ashley or Sharon for more details.
- **Sun 25 June** - Outing to Walton-on-the-Naze. For full details of times etc see Mr T., Ashley or Sharon.

Cubs

- **Fri 9 June** - Athletes badge at Mayesbrook Arena, Mayesbrook Park, Lodge Avenue. 6.p.m. onwards.
- **Sat 10 June** - 5-a-side Football at May & Bakers sports ground, Dagenham Road, Dagenham. 9:00 a.m. for 9:30 a.m. start. See Baggy for who is in the team.
- **Sun 25 June** - Sports Day, Mayesbrook arena, Mayesbrook Park, Lodge Avenue. 12:30 p.m.
- **+ Camps Below**

Scouts

- **Sat 10 June** - 5-a-side Football at May & Bakers sports ground, Dagenham Road, Dagenham. 9:00 a.m. for 9:30 a.m. start.
- **Sun 25 June** - Sports Day, Mayesbrook arena, Mayesbrook Park, Lodge Avenue. 12 for 12:30 p.m. start

+ Camp on May Bank Holiday Weekend (see below)

Don't Forget the Camps!

The cubs are going to District Camp over the weekend from Friday 26 May to Monday 29 May. The camp, as usual, is at Thriftwood Campsite, Brentwood, Essex.

www.btinternet.com/~thriftwood

In addition Mr T. has organised a camp for the Scouts for the same weekend, Fri 26 May to Mon 29 May at Thriftwood.

The Cubs are also going on Pack Holiday (a Pack Holiday is usually a camp for a week with indoor accommodation) on the week Fri 18 August until Fri 25 August. This will be at the Sir John Lowther Scout Centre, Kettering, Northants. The cost is £90. If you would like your son/daughter to attend then please see Akela for a form.

Don't forget that for future camps we operate a camp bank where you can pay a little money each week towards the cost.

We will also be producing a pamphlet giving you information on what equipment to take to camp. Have Fun!

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE 9TH DAGENHAM SCOUT GROUP

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Website Review – Nasa for Kids

http://www.nasa.gov/kids

This is not a bad little site at all for anyone remotely interested in space and astronomy. Packed full of ideas, games and things to do it will take a little while to explore. The site certainly rewards a patient and persistant search, not all the goodies are immediately to hand and a little digging turns up some gems hidden away. It seems to be aimed at a wide age range, some of the activities are more suitable for the older scout age although the majority of the information is suitable for cub age.

We are on the web at www.scoutingresources.org.uk

Win a CD!

If you send a new game, new song, new stunt or a good idea to the Scouting Resources website you can win a copy of the Website along with some other goodies and games on a CD. Simply give your entries and ideas to Baggy or email the website at submission@scoutingresources.org.uk

The Story of a Good Turn: How scouting started in the United States

One day in 1909 in London, England, An American Visitor, William D. Boyce, lost his way in a dense fog. He stopped under a street lamp and tried to figure out where he was. A boy approached him and asked if he could be of help.

"You certainly can," said Boyce. He told the boy that he wanted to find a certain business office in the centre of the city.

"I'll take you there," said the boy.

When they got to the destination, Mr. Boyce reached into his pocket for a tip. But the boy stopped him.

"No thank you, sir. I am a Scout. I won't take anything for helping."

"A Scout? And what might that be?" asked Boyce.

The boy told the American about himself and about his brother scouts. Boyce became very interested. After finishing his errand, he had the boy take him to the British Scouting office.

At the office, Boyce met Lord Robert Baden-Powell, the famous British general who had founded the Scouting movement in Great Britain. Boyce was so impressed with what he learned that he decided to bring Scouting home with him.

On February 8, 1910, Boyce and a group of outstanding leaders founded the Boy Scouts of America. From that day forth, Scouts have celebrated February 8 as the birthday of Scouting in the United States.

What happened to the boy who helped Mr.Boyce find his way in the fog? No one knows. He had neither asked for money nor given his name, but he will never be forgotten. His Good Turn helped bring the scouting movement to our country.

In the British Scout Training Center at Gilwell Park, England, Scouts from the United States erected a statue of an American Buffalo in honor of this unknown scout.

One Good Turn to *one* man became a Good Turn to millions of American Boys.

Such is the power of a Good Turn.

Hence The Scout Slogan:

DO A GOOD TURN DAILY

Taken from the website of Troop 1, Pelham, New York

http://www.users.interport.net/~troop1/