Issue 24

January 2001

Akela's Shout

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE 9TH BARKING & DAGENHAM SCOUT GROUP

Akela

Baggy

Akela says...

Hi everyone,

Hope this issue finds you well and ready for 2001. I hope you all enjoyed the holidays.

We are hoping to continue putting the out into scouting in 2001, more details further on in this issue.

On a sad note for those of you who know Raksha (Pauline Pass) her husband passed away on Boxing Day. The group will be sending a cheque to St Francis Hospice as requested by the family.

The District Carol Service was very poorly attended as only 1 scout attended. The promise you make at your investiture does say duty to God, as we do not have a regular church parade this is one of the services I would like you to attend. The others being Founders Day (February), St George's Day (April) and Harvest Festival (October).

There are a number of competitions throughout the year for all sections and it would be nice if we could be represented at all of them.

See you soon.

Akela

Jokes, Jokes, Jokes

Mr T has some very funny jokes (well he thinks they are). If you have not heard them please ask him.

Important News for Parents:

On Wednesday 20th December I had to attend a meeting with the churchwardens to sign our contract for 2001. At this meeting it was said that most members of the PCC want us to pay the full rates for hiring the hall from 1/1/02. These (2001 rates) are:

£7	per hour for the small hall
£9	per hour for the large hall

We have the small hall for 1½ hours and the large hall for 4 hours. We would have to pay

	£10.50	per night for the small hall
	£36	per night for the large hall
Total:	**£46.50**	per night

If we meet for 48 weeks per year the total cost is

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Uniform Review

The Uniform Review Committee has had a meeting and the new uniform is going to be dark green for both Cubs and Scouts, not sure of the design. No change for Beavers. Therefore the existing style of sweatshirt for Cubs and shirt for Scouts can be worn as the changeover is not scheduled to be completed until 1st January 2003 and even then the Cubs and Scouts can still wear the existing uniform until they change sections. If you require us to obtain your child's uniform please let us know the chest size for Cubs and the collar size for Scouts.

Weblink: http://www.scoutbase.org.uk/hq-info/uniform/

Contact Details

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Scouting Resources Website

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Important News for Parents:

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Yearly Cost: **£2232**

We currently have 31 children paying £2 each per week. The total income from this for 48 weeks is:

Subs. Income: **£2976**

We have to pay the Scout Association £19.50 for every child and leader (2001 price) for insurance and other purposes. We have 31 children and 7 leaders for a cost of:

38 x £19.50 = £741

So our current costs amount to:

	£2232
+	£ 741
	£2973

As you can see this leaves us with £3. I have not accounted for the running costs of the minibus which last year was our saviour as I am not sure what we would have done for the 22 weeks we could not use the large hall. We would not have any money for tent repairs, replacing equipment etc.

Should we look for a new hall or pay the full rate? Increase subs. yet again? These are questions that you as parents need to answer. I think we should have a meeting to discuss where we go from here.

If you have anything to suggest or wish to ask a question please speak to one of the leaders.

2001 Events

Yes I know we promised a calendar of events but the district are dithering about and have yet to decide the details for some sections.

We are here to help...

For those of you new to the group please be aware that we offer the following:

- Intro. Pack for parents new to Scouting
- Camp Bank for easy payment of camps
- Cub and Scout handbooks detailing badge/award requirements
- Camp forms and kit lists for details on camps
- Website for a variety of information on Scouting

If you ever have any questions, comments, chocolate, criticisms, complaints, money, advice, beer or praise then feel free to contact the leaders at any time.

We will always welcome a chat or a phone call to discuss any matter, no matter how important or trivial.

You know where we are on a Tuesday night, our address, phone number and email are in the grey box on the front cover. If you wish to speak to us in private then please let one of us know or slip us a note and we will arrange a confidential meeting.

The group can only function as long as there is good communication between Scouts, Parents, Leaders, Helpers and the rest of the Scouting Community.

Scout Section:

Please bring a backpack (rather than a full blown rucksack, a backpack suitable for a day's hike) big enough to fit the following items:

- Waterproofs
- Map/Compass
- First Aid Kit
- Spare set of clothes
- Torch
- Stove/Food/Fuel

This is to prepare for a day out hiking. You will have to carry your own equipment so the lighter it is the more comfortable you will be. For a days hike you will need the bare minimum of equipment and just the essential safety and food items. Being as you are carrying a light load over 'easy' ground trainers will be acceptable footwear.

When we eventually build up to longer hikes and weekend hikes you will have to learn how to pack and carry a larger (heavier!) rucksack and perhaps obtain the correct footwear.

If you have any questions please ask a leader.

Cub Section

The Cubs will be working their way through a few of the Activity badges over the next year in addition to the core requirements for the main awards.

At the moment we are working on the Writer and Artist badges and these will come in handy for the forthcoming Handcraft competition in a couple of months time.

As usual if there is a badge your child wishes to do, or if you are able to offer your services towards testing one of the awards then have a word with Akela or Baggy.