## Upcoming Events

- St. George's Day Parade
- Camps. Camps. Camps!
- Easter Egg Hunt

## News and Information

- "No to Girls in the Group"
- Scout Rally Results
- Competition Time!

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# Akela's Shout

*The Newsletter for the 9th Dag Scout Group*
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*Editor: Baggy*

## "No to Girls in the Group"

*see the article below for more information. What are* ***your*** *views?*

## Akela's 'Arf by Akela

Hi everyone, I hope you had a good Easter, lots of eggs and trips out.

Church parade was cancelled on the 1st Sunday of this month as we have our big parade service for St. George's Day. This is on Sunday 25th April at 2:00 p.m. Further details to follow. I would like all Beavers, Cubs and Scouts to attend in full uniform.

As we have had no contributions from anyone (except this issue's from Mr. and Mrs. Sparrow) we have now allowed time in the programme for the boys to write something. There have been a number of competitions in February and March and there are quite a few in April so you should start to find out more about what the different sections do.

Well done to everyone who took part in the Handcraft competition. Don't forget your contribution, see you in May.

## Upcoming Events

### Beaver Section

**Easter Egg Hunt Sat. 17th March**
Mr. T. has the details.

**St. George's Day Parade 25th April**
Details to follow.

### Cub Section

**Sixers Day Sat. 17th March**
9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
This is for Sixers only

**St. George's Day Parade 25th April**
Details to follow.

### Scout Section

**St. George's Day Parade 25th April**
Details to follow.

**Activity Weekend, Thetford, Norfolk**
**Friday 30th April - Mon 3rd May**

**Scout Camp**
**Friday 28th - Mon 31st May**

## News & Information

### Cub Section

The cub section are setting up a new certificate set which will be given to cubs when they achieve a certain level in scouting skills like knots, mapping etc. We are hoping to give different levels of award (Bronze, Silver and Gold) for the different stages, with each stage becoming harder to achieve than the last.

We are also hoping to take the Cubs to Thriftwood on Saturday 8th May, for a day of scouting skills. Events will include cooking on an open fire, tent pitching, orienteering and much more.

### Scout Section

Mr. T is organising a camp for the last weekend in May (28th – 31st), the same weekend that the cubs go away. This is in addition to the Water Weekend (don't forget – first weekend in May). The cost for this camp will be £25. See Mr. T for more details

## No to Girls in the Group

by Tessa and Stephen Sparrow

Dear Akela

We feel it would be detrimental to the 9th Dagenham group to allow girls to join. There is no positive reason for a girl to wish to join the beavers, cubs or scouts. Any girl wishing to join the boy's groups should be encouraged to join a local brownie/guide group. If girls did not join the traditional girls' side of the scout movement, these branches would

eventually die off – and that consequence would not help anyone.

Our son is not alone in feeling that he would enjoy the cubs less and probably eventually leave if girls were to join. Children have experience of the school playground to provide them with evidence that many activities are gender-significant. Whether or not these differences are a product of nature or nurture is immaterial. Mixed groups would disallow enjoyment of those activities in which cubs and brownies have traditionally been able to take part where gender differences are significant.

Yours sincerely

## Don't Forget! by John Gazely

Don't forget that if you can get as many points as me and Callum, Bag's will take you somewhere. (*I don't recall saying that! -Baggy.)*

## Scout Rally Results

The Scout Rally was held on Saturday 10th April at Thriftwood. Our scouts entered a patrol of three (where were the rest of you?), James, Lee and Thomas Robertson. They were tested on their scouting skills at a number of bases, firelighting, tent pitching, lashings and orienteering. The competition was close and they achieved second place with just two points between the top teams. Well done to those three that turned up and perhaps next year if the rest of your patrol turn up you can win it!

## Baggy's Bit

This month its competition time. There will be a prize for the first person from each section to come up with the answer to your particular question;

### Beaver Section

Name four leaders at the 9th Dagenham Scout Group.

### Cub Section

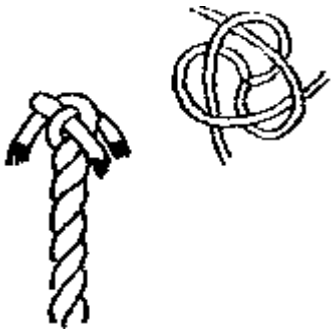
What does this Morse code message say?

-.-. | --- | ..- | -. | - | .-. | -.-- |

-.-. | --- | -.- | . |

### Scout Section

I want you to tell me the name of this knot and give an example of its use.



## Mapping Awards by Baggy

As you now know the Cub section is going to run a scheme whereby the cubs may choose to gain an 'award' certificate in certain scouting skills. I have now completed the requirements for the mapping award so if you are interested see me.

There are three stages, Bronze, Silver and Gold, and each one become progressively harder to obtain. If you do manage to achieve the Gold award, which will take a lot of hard work, I will allow you to become an 'instructor' so that you can teach the other cubs your chosen subject.

## Proficiency Badges & Scouting Skills

Right, listen up, this applies to both Cub and Scout sections.

The proficiency badges are those that you wear on your left arm. They cover a wide range of topics and interests and there is bound to be something that you are interested in.

The proficiency badge scheme is there for you to use, not just for the leaders to 'fill-up' part of the night's program. If you want to take or learn a certain badge then have a word with any of the leaders. The leaders will do everything they can to make sure you do the badge you want, between us and the people we know we can cover almost all of the badges.

Now the cub section has actually organised the program so that we will be picking up a few more of these badges over the next few months or so. I am sure that the scout section will also continue its work on the badges they are currently doing.

On a similar line we are hoping to increase the amount of scouting skills you actually **do**. Its all very well talking and showing things to you like tent pitching and fire lighting, but until you actually practice these things for yourself you wont learn a thing.

For the cubs we are hoping to take you to Thriftwood (see first page) for a day and actually put all these skills to good use. The scouts will continue to practice these skills, especially with the recent and upcoming competitions and camps.

So if any of you scouts or cubs really want to learn a certain badge or skill then let the leaders know.