Issue 32

Sep 2001

Akela's Shout

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE 9TH BARKING & DAGENHAM SCOUT GROUP

Thank You to

B & D Glassmasters
and
Trevor Daws

for the loan of their vans to take our gear to and from camp. Also to **Hatch**, the driver of the B & D van.

Thank you **Bernie**, **Hatch** and **Trevor**

Friday 9th November
Dagenham Football Club

Cost: between £3 – £5

Teams of up to 8 people

Bar available but bring your own nibbles!

Please support this fundraiser

Quiz Night

Akela says...

Hi everyone, hope this issue finds you rested and raring to go after your summer hols.

There are a number of competitions, events and fundraising things coming in the next few months so please make sure you are reading the Shout from cover to cover. We welcome contributions for the Shout from anyone so get writing. What would be nice is if you could get an interview with an older person about how life was during the war or what Barking & Dagenham was like when they first moved here. This is all part of the Local Historian badge.

While I am on the subject of the Local Historian badge the Cubs are going to visit Eastbury House on Tuesday 11th September at 6:30 p.m. Please could I ask you to take your son/ daughter there and we will meet them. We will be bringing them home and pick up will be as usual at the hall at 8 o'clock.

We had a very good camp, weather was good and all the Cubs enjoyed themselves. To ease the cost of camp we do operate a camp bank whereby you can pay as much or as little as you like, per week or per month. Next years dates are likely to be 31st May to 3d June and 17th August to 24th August. Forms will be give as soon as we have finalised the details.

I would like to express my thanks to B & D Glassmasters and Trevor Daws for the loan of their vans to take our gear to and from camp. Also to Hatch, the driver of the B & D van.

Thank you Bernie, Hatch and Trevor, I will treat you to a beer or two when I next see you.

See you soon

Akela

Scouts - www.scouts.org.uk **Scoutbase -** www.scoutbase.org.uk **County -** www.glne-scouts.org.uk
District Website - www.barking-dagenham-scouts.org.uk **Scouting Resources -** www.scoutingresources.

Contact Details

Mr T. (Group Scout Leader)
Ken Thompson
****** Road
Dagenham

Tel: 020 *****

'Akela' (Cub/Scout Leader)
Rosemary Oakwell
******Road
Dagenham

Home Tel: 020 ******
Work Tel: 020 ******

rosemary@telmar.co.uk

'Baggy' (A.C.S.L)
Darren Dowling
******Street
Dagenham

Mobile: ******

baggy@scoutingresources.org.uk

'Shaz' (B.S.L)
Sharon Martin

Tel: 020 ******
Mobile: ******

'Gaz' (A.B.S.L)
Gary Collins
Mobile: ******

Paradise Park

By Shaz

Beavers day out to Paradise Wildlife Park on 12th August

What is it about outings and our good British weather? It rained most of the morning for our trip. Luckily we all had our waterproof jackets with us! Despite that though we all had a lovely day. My favourite animal at the park had to be the tigers. The Beavers saw all the animals, went on a tractor ride round the park, played in the adventure playground had a walk through the forest and played crazy golf.

Anyway, that is enough from me now. Here is what some of the Beavers wrote:

Christopher Andrew (Aged 8)
On Saturday we went to Paradise Wildlife Park. We left at 9 o'clock when it was raining. When we got there we looked at all the animals first. We looked at ducks, rabbits, goats and all the other farm animals. After that we saw lost of wild animals, like zebras, lions, monkeys, parrots and many more. We then had our lunch. After that we all went to the fun park and played for ages. I had a great time, and would like to thank everyone who took us. Thank you.

Tommy Boom (Aged 7)
I liked the tigers and monkeys. I liked the playground and the tractor ride. It rained most of the day, but we still had a lot of fun.

Billy Boom (Aged 6)
I enjoyed the Wildlife Park. I saw a tiger and a cheetah, lions, wolves and lots of animals. I went into the forest and saw lots of dinosaurs. I like the park.

"You're going to need a table to wipe that cloth"

Akela at Pack Holiday

Gazza Reports

By Gaz

Despite the non-stop downfall, the trip to Broxbourne Paradise Park was a huge success to those who could go. The first things we saw was the wild birds of prey followed by the indoor farm where we were allowed to feed the goats, rabbits, sheep and beautiful newly born deer. We looked a the reptile room and onto the bird aviary with a selection of tropical birds, that was ok but you didn't dare look up as you walked through it.

Then we went to the wild cats cages like the lions, tigers, cheetahs, wolfs and red foxes. The camels looked like they had the hump and the porcupine kept quivering his quills, the meercats were really cute in their newly built enclosure.

After a spot of lunch we went on a tractor ride around the park and then for a play in the two big adventure playgrounds. We then went for a walk in the forest trying to spot the 12 different types of dinosaurs. Then another round of the wildcats and through to the playground where we had a game of crazy golf, with ice-creams. It was a non-stop fun day had by all including the leaders, you can tell the kids enjoyed it because they were all quiet on the way home.

Heritage Info.

The latest information from HQ informs us that English Heritage are set to sponsor the Scout Heritage badge.

English Heritage offers free visits for Scout Groups at its 409 historic properties and has also made available the expertise of its nine regional education officers to help inspire and smooth the way for Leaders. This sentence is for the Scouts who are working on their Observer badge, they need to remember the word lark. And every Scout achieving the Badge will receive a free family day out to an English Heritage property of their choice.

Pack Holiday

Well...it took us a little while to get to the airport...and we picked up a passenger on the motorway (although we wouldn't find out about the stowaway until Wednesday) and then (surprise surprise) we had to wait overnight for our flight to China. The rest of the week saw us on a whistle-stop tour of the world, China, Germany, Russia, Australia, South America and Greece. Coupled with a fair amount of time at the airport of course!

What did we do? Ohh...loads of stuff...it would fill a book! Doesn't sound too exciting on paper but ask one of those present, I am sure you will get an enthusiastic reply.

For me the week simply went far too quickly. I enjoyed myself immensely and I know the kids and the other leaders did too.

Highlights include the Cubs getting 'lost' in the forest, Lee getting stuck in the tyre on the assault course, a Sunday afternoon spent in and out of the hall (Sunshine > outside > rain > inside > sunshine > waterproofs on > outside > rain > inside > waterproofs off > sunshine … repeat all day).

There was the 'double swimming', the Olympic games, Didjeridu competition and Mardi Gras floats.

Not to forget the strict Customs Officers, the cocktail festival, rocket building and firelighting.

There was the England v Germany match (no 5-1 win here though!) and of course...throughout the week the traditional dancing which culminated in the impromptu 'disco' at the end of the week.

The Cubs were well behaved and we had no problems or complaints at all. Everyone mucked in and got on with things and made sure they had Fun with a capital F.

Thanks to Baccy for doing a great job all week, to all the leaders for working hard to make it a success and to the Cubs for making it so enjoyable.

Appropriate Quiz?

Letter dated 13 July 2001:

Dear Rosemary

I would like you to print this letter in the next newsletter as I would like to ask the opinion of other parents on the appropriateness of a quiz recently held by you for the Scouts in which two of the answers were "Babycham" and "Guinness".

Yours sincerely

Tessa Sparrow

The group received two written replies to the above letter, they are reproduced here.

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Dear All,

After reading the August Akela's Shout I felt compelled to write a letter in response to Mrs Sparrow's letter regarding the appropriateness of a Scout game involving advertisements.

Unless Mrs Sparrow's offspring have led a very sheltered life, with no outside contact with the real world, I would be very surprised if they have not been in contact with these type of advertisements before.

A game that I suspect was prepared for the Scouts in all innocence, seems to have been blown out of proportion by Mrs Sparrow. Ask any eight year old what the television advert for Budweiser is and I am sure they would be able to tell you. Not a streetwise, latch-key kid who has had no parental teaching, but a run of the mill eight year old, who goes to bed at an appropriate time, reads to his parents every night, does his homework on time and who will hopefully grow into a fine young adult.

I don't mean to be rude, but I feel that his comment was a little over the top. Myself as a caring parent of course I want to protect our children from things that we find unsuitable for them. But a game of advertisements even if a couple are about alcohol is hardly going to scar them for life or turn them into drunken yob like youths. Children come into contact with alcohol every day. Do we ourselves hide our own social drinking from them? I suspect not.

After reading the Akela's Shout for a number of years I am sorry to say that this is not the first time a hefty criticism has come from Mrs Sparrow. Criticism is all well and good and maybe we do learn from it (when appropriate) but a pat on the back and a well done every now and then goes a lot further.

Its very easy for us parents to whinge about things happening in Beavers, Cubs or Scouts but are we willing to give up our time to come and help run the group?

The people who run the 9th Dagenham are only human and mistakes sometimes happen. But I feel that they are doing a fine job, in a society when not many are willing to give their time as they do. With all the effort I know they must put in. Not only with the pack nights but all the meetings I know they have to attend and all the other activities they do with all the sections in this group. I would feel insulted if I was one of them after receiving a letter regarding the appropriateness of a game. They all seem intelligent, level headed individuals who I am sure are quite capable of deciding what they think is suitable or not for the children under their supervision. After all do we not entrust them with the sole care of our children at the various camps they have run for them? A responsibility that I am sure I would not like to undertake.

Well done to all at the 9th and thank you for the time, effort and sweat that you put in for our children.

Name and address withheld

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I feel I have to reply to the letter printed in the August issue of the newsletter sent in by T. Sparrow. I am also a parent of a member of the 9th Dagenham and feel that this letter shows the petty mindness of some parents. These leaders hold down full time jobs, families, homes etc and give up every spare moment to ensure these children have some enjoyment. It is a pity the energy used in finding fault isn't used more constructively in helping organise and raising funds.

Name and address supplied

Aardvark
A vark that thinks it's tough!

Abigail
Strong wind heard in a monastery!

Absent Minded
I seem to have forgotten this one !

Abundance
Lots of dancing cakes

Abyss
An abbot's wife

Accidental
When you fall and knock your teeth out on the way to the dentist

Acorn
An oak in a nutshell

Actor
A man who tries to be everything but himself

Adult
A person who has stopped growing at both ends and has started growing in the middle

Advertising
Makes you think you've always wanted something that you've never heard of before

Afford
A very popular make of car

Alarm Clock
Something to scare the living daylight into you

Announce
One sixteenth of a pound

Antelope
When two ants run off to get married

Anti-body
Uncle's fat wife

Beavers

No Events this month

Cubs

Tuesday 11th September
Visit to Eastbury Manor House
6:30 p.m.

15th – 16th September
District Sixers Camp
Hargreaves

Saturday 6th October
Kubadoo
Hargreaves

Saturday 17th October
Cub Quiz

Scouts

29th – 30th September
Camping Competition
Thriftwood

Fundraising

Friday 9th November
Quiz Night
We are having a quiz night at Dagenham Football Club on Friday 9th November. Teams of up to 8 persons. Cost will be between £3 & £5. Bar available but bring your own nibbles. Please support this fundraiser.

Sunday 14th October
Thriftwalk
This is a sponsored walk around Thriftwood campsite. The money raised is split 50-50 between Thriftwood and our group. Everybody is welcome. More details in the next issue.

Webb Ivory (Christmas Catalogue)
We have ordered this years Webb Ivory catalogues, so please look through them and order. For every £1 spent the group gets 25p.

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Quiz Night

Cub Visit Eastbury House

Tuesday 11th September
6:30 pm.

Please could I ask you to take your son/ daughter there and we will meet them.

We will be bringing them home and pick up will be as usual at the hall at 8 o'clock.

September Camps

These camps are 'special' events are places are limited. Those that qualify will receive information from the leaders.

E.g. Only Sixers may attend the Sixers camp (of course!)

Cub Sixers Camp & Scout Camping Comp.

November Cub & Scout Camp

November Cub/Scout Camp

The leaders are hoping to run a Cub & Scout Camp at the end of November. The proposed date: 24-25th November.

Cost will be around £30 –35 and we will have the use of a building.

Camping in 2002

2002 Camps

There are two main camps held each year in addition to the myriad of other camps organised by the group and district.

These are the weekend camp at the end of May and the week long camp held at the end of August.

Next years dates are likely to be 31st May to 3d June and 17th August to 24th August. Forms will be give as soon as we have finalised the details.

It is likely that the camps will be open to both Cubs and Scouts. Don't forgot that you can start paying for these camps now to ease the burden across a year or so of small payments into a 'camp bank'. Ask a leader for details.