

Maldon & East Essex



District



Volume 2 Issue 4 December 2008

Conservation Morning by Hatfield Peverel

On 27th October the first Monday of the half term , 70 members of Hatfield Peverel Scout and Guide groups took part in a Conservation morning at our local village pond.



The weather was bright but a little cold
There were ten different activities to take part in, planting seeds ie acorns, conkers into pots to set at a later date, clearing the main path, relaying another path with barrow loads of wood chips, clearing out two ditches, removing a dead tree from one ditch and making this into homes for insects and hedgehogs, planting bushes and English blue bells, planting willow trees and clearing and basic tidying up .

Everyone got into small groups and sorted out what was needed to be done and got on with it, so much fun was had.
Not only did the youngsters enjoy the morning they also found out how they were helping to conserve the area, and putting right what other people had spoilt, all of the youngster gain badges for the mornings work.

The cubs at present are doing the conservation badger so this all helped.



As a group we are hoping to do another day in the February half term at another area in the village.

Jo Jarvis
GSL 1st Hatfield Peverel



by the Rules of JOTI. If anyone misbehaves then they are asked to leave.

Jamboree On The Internet (JOTI)
@ Prances Camp Site, Wickham Bishop's
18-19 October 2008

WHAT IS JOTI?

Jamboree On The Internet – JOTI - is an event which takes place every year on the third weekend of October, it is officially open 48 hours, from Saturday 00.00 until Sunday 24.00.

JOTI is held at the same time as the **Jamboree on the Air (JOTA)** which concentrates on amateur radios, helped by amateur radio people. Thousands of people take part each year.

WHAT HAPPENS?

At **JOTI** Scouts and Guides from all over the world make contact with each other by



means of the Internet and PC's, using the technology available, like e-mail, chat programs, instant messaging, and microphones.

JOTI allows you to make contact with Scouts in lots of other countries and to find out more about their lives - in and out of



Scouting. Sometimes, these contacts last for years and help to build the base for future



Scouting trips and friendships. This year I made contacts with over 70 people, from places like:-Sweden, Malta, USA,

Australia, Indonesia, South Africa, New Zealand and Brazil. We chatted about what they did at Scouts or Guides, who their leaders were and what they were like, the weather, their uniforms, if their groups had websites and general teenagers' chat.

IS IT SAFE?

Yes, because it's in a properly controlled environment – a "safe area". ALL the chat and emails are constantly monitored, and everyone has to sign a slip to agree to abide

WAS IT FUN?

Yes, it was **brilliant**. I really enjoyed finding out about the Scouts and Guides from other countries, and what things they did. It was



interesting because people came on-line at different times, depending on where they were in the world, and what time it was there. I stayed on until about 3.30am – and then crashed into bed exhausted. *The next day I slept for the whole day and right through to 7am!* I would really recommend you take part next year, and find out for yourselves.

Report from : Rosie Hall
(Scout) 1st Silver End Scout
MALDON & EAST ESSEX DISTRICT

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Silver Ends London Adventure
Over the weekend of 25th/26th October
members of 1st Silver End
Scout Troop spent their time in
London. The troop now make
this an annual trip to the
capital, but vary the
programme each year. For



2008 the weekend started with an afternoon of exploring the science museum after travelling up by coach in the morning.

After seeing all the different inventions, technology playing in the interactive area called launch pad and going in the simulators, it was another short tube journey and then a walk to the Youth Hostel in Kensington.

There was just enough time to sort out rooms, have the 'home cooked' meal and freshen up before heading off to Westminster for a night flight on the London Eye. Soaring above the city, we could see the Houses of Parliament, St Paul's Cathedral and various other iconic building all lit up. It wasn't until you looked down that you realised how high up we were! On returning to the Youth Hostel, the Scouts had free time to relax, watch TV in the common room or chill out in their rooms.

Some of the girls made friends with some of the French students that were also staying there. Even though the other guests were not Scouts, they still enjoyed getting to know about each others countries and cultures and teaching each other different words.

Sunday morning was spent in the London Dungeon's. With it being the weekend before Halloween there was a few extra 'spirits' floating around to keep the Scouts on their toes! Jack Ripper made an appearance too! Next year we will be at the opposite of the City staying in canary wharf...



The weekend 10/11/12 October saw 1st Heybridge spending another brilliant time in the Peak district. Leaving Bentals at 5.30 pm

Friday by mini bus and people carriers they arrived at Gradbach around 10.30 pm. Oh the joys of a governed engine at 62mph!



Saturday morning there was a “gentle stroll” to the Roaches, with 19 young people and 8 leaders, where they did some “real rock climbing”. Stagger back to base and out of the clouds to pots full of “climbers stew” and apple pie and custard..

Evening saw youngsters and leaders trying to circumnavigate go pak tables and pick strange things up off the floor with their mouths. Bed was welcoming and very quiet.

Pack up Sunday and then off for a glorious walk between Millers Dale Station along the Monsal Trail to Monsal Head where the ice cream man was VERY welcome.



Our thanks go to the Esmat team who were comprised of,
Peter Burton ex DC M and D
Paul Cable ex ASL 1st Maldon (and ex scout from Heybridge)
Martin Razzell ex ASL 1st Maldon
Gareth Evens
Chris Burton nights away advisor M and E Essex
John Sheppard ex scouter in charge 1st Mayland
Richard Sheppard ex scouter 1st Mayland



Whilst we invested Peter and Andrew on a viaduct on the walk we have threatened to do Paul and John next year unless they can think of a good excuse why they shouldn't be honouree members of Heybridge Scout Group.



Old But Usefull

1st Heybridge Scout Group is branching out into recycling this year. It was decided that there was still some usefulness in worn out discarded items!! As such they are proud to announce the investiture of,

Peter Burton as AESL formally ex DC M and D

Andrew Goodwin (camper warden) as SL formally SL with Beacon Hill

Karl Jarvis s SL formally chairman with Beacon Hill.

All were taken advantage of in the true scouting style, waiting for a weak moment to get them to “sign ere mate”

We wish them all the best in their new positions.





PRANCES NEWS

Christmas is nearly upon us and another year draws to a close. Our 1st full year at Prances has been fantastic and extremely busy. We hope that everyone who has used the site has enjoyed themselves and that they have benefited from all the new developments. What has changed since the last newsletter? The main field has now been harrowed, reseeded and fertilised. We are keeping as much of the hard use off this area as possible so that it has a chance to recover and grow. Having Chubbies Field, and additional area of just under 4 acres of grass is making a huge difference to everyone's camping. We are now looking for a farmer/contractor who can help trim the hedges and keep the grass cut in the field.

ADVENTURE AREA - COMPETITION

We are now looking to rebuild the Adventure area. This area has seen much use and has given much pleasure to scouts over the years but is now looking rather tired. We would really like your ideas for rebuilding area. What sort of activities would you like? Rope Bridge, Monkey Swings, Mud Tunnels etc? Why not create your own design with simple sketches and a brief explanation of how this will work? Add in a name for each of the activities and try to create an exciting theme. You can either do this as a Troop, Pack or Colony or as an individual. The best suggestion will win a prize from the scout shop. Entries need to be in by Monday 12th January 09. Please send your entry to Andrew Goodwin, Prances, Great Totham Road, Wickham Bishops, Witham, CM8 3NP. Make

sure your entry gives both your name and group name.

Other news

We hosted the Mostly Musical evening in November and that was a huge success. Philip and Jan sang beautifully and the food was fabulous. Our thanks to Barry and June for organising the event, Barry and Andrew stirred Chilli all day in the kitchen! Also many thanks to Dave and Teresa for helping with the mountain of washing up at the end. Hopefully Phillip and Jan will agree to come again in 2 years and we look forward to seeing new and old faces.

We have also had our first new District Scout Camp. This also went well; all who attended had a great time, although it rained all day on Sunday. The Scouts that attended have achieved new badges and also completed elements towards other badge work. Look out for it all to happen again next year. Our thanks to Peter Burton and Richard Beckwith (Climbing Team) from Heybridge group who helped us out – the young people enjoyed the experience, for some their first time up the tower.

On December 7th at 4pm we are hosting a District Family Xmas sing-a-long; more details are in the newsletter. Please come along and support this event. Father Christmas is making a guest appearance. Join us and let's end the year on a high. Remember to bring the lanterns you have made.

If you haven't made a lantern before here are a few tips:-

Take a clean jam jar. Tie a piece of string around the neck of the jam jar nice and tightly, loop around this another piece of string to make a handle. Make sure the handle is long enough to stop the heat from the candle from burning the holder's fingers. Decorate the outside of the jam jar with a Christmas scene or coloured or any other design. You could even make the outside of the jam jar look like an old fashioned lantern. If you really wanted to you can tie the handle to a piece of bamboo can, so that the lantern hangs from the pole. Put a tea light into the bottom of the jar and when you light it, it will shine through the design that you have decorated. Bring your lanterns along to the sing-a-long and create the Christmas theme.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped us out over this last year, from committee members to instructors, leaders, service team, parents and most of all the Scouting Boys and Girls.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from Andrew and Sara Goodwin and all the team from Prances.



Promotion and Development of Scouting.

Part of my role in MEED is to promote and develop scouting. To help me in this I would be grateful if you would send me the dates and contact details for any village/town/church/school shows, fetes or other events across the district where we could promote scouting.

Thank you
Tricia Harris
ADC General Duties

BACK TO BASICS camping weekend



Part of the team

The district held a special event at Prances training ground on 14, 15, 16 November in which 38 young people from the Scout section, supported by 15 adults, came together to learn about



pioneering, climbing, backwards cooking map and compass, use of saw and axe and They

also learnt how to work together as teams, cooking and camping, using the Patrol system.



Backwoods cooking overdone !

For some of them this was a completely new experience and one in which they will remember for passing on to others during their Scouting lives. The fun they had was evident by the looks on their tired but happy faces by the afternoon of Sunday when they broke camp, cleared away and went home with their parents.

The adult teams must be congratulated on their tenacity and brilliance in adapting to many changes in the programme because of resource problems or the changing weather. Sara and Andrew Goodman, the site managers, were available to provide equipment and service crews for the many activities. A lively and good natured camp fire circle was also enjoyed by all on Saturday night.



Campfire circle

We were all looked after by two wonderful ladies, Margaret Patterson and Sally Huggett, who ensured that all provisions for Group cooking were distributed correctly and also provided suppers on the Friday evening after the night hike and on Saturday evening after the Campfire circle. Tricia Harris arranged a contemplative Scouts Own which gave everyone time for reflection and thought with many of the prayers and sayings delivered by the young people.



Hatfield Peverel Scout Troop

To all the people involved we give thanks for an opportunity to show all our children how they can gain awards and complete challenges by having fun, making new friends and learning new crafts.



Compass bearing sign

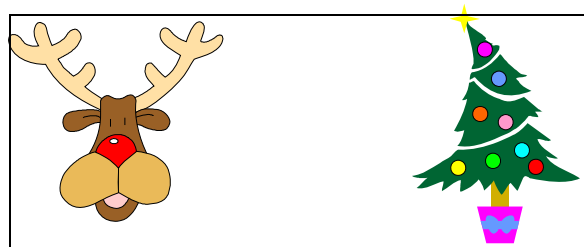
We look forward to the next time.....

I Know it's early, but let's get the ball rolling, pass to all your friends and spread some festive spirit.

Merry Christmas to you!

Click on each of the reindeers to see how they contribute to the song.

Go to: <http://www.glenn.tapley.us/MC.swf>



Maldon & East Essex District

invite you all to our

**SCOUT FAMILY
SING-A-LONG**

at Prances Camp Site,
Great Totham

on Sunday 7 December 2008

at 4 pm

ENTERTAINMENT & REFRESHMENTS

VISIT BY SANTA CLAUS