

Maldon & East Essex District



Please see page 7 for a report from our Acting DC and a copy letter from the County Chairman. Apologies for the back page, but all set out when received info. ED

Last months picture was of course Maldon Prom.

Volume 2 Issue 3 September 2008

1st Maldon's Summer Expedition.

1st Maldon Merlin Scout Troop and Explorers travelled to Silver Cross Scout Centre Llangyfelach Swansea from the 26th July for their Summer Camp. We had camped at this site in 2006 but this time 50% of our party were first timers.

The site has good camping grounds and the Indoor accommodation, which we had, caters for 40 people. Apart from the usual facilities ie showers, we had fridge , freezer, and for the first time a dishwasher, although the scouts did not get away with it all. A laundry room with washing machine and tumble dryers were also available to campers.

We participated in all the usual on-site activities, archery, shooting, pioneering , various wide games and camp fires. Abseiling was booked but the rain did not stop for play !!

Off-site we made visits to and had guided tours of Aberdulais Falls (National Trust)



where we held our Scouts Own and Sam Gower was Invested into the Troop with a backcloth of the falls.



Our next visit was to the new Leisure Centre Swansea which was opened in March by the Queen which included, swimming, flumes and the scouts tried their skills on the surfrider.



A visit to the Pemberton's Chocolate Factory was a must, (a very good visit and interesting talk) with a chance to try samples and to decorate your own chocolate.



A guided tour around the Welsh National Wool Museum proved to be excellent with



our guides opening up and running the various machinery.



We also attended the National Museum of Childhood where the owners collection over many years was all displayed.



A special trip was made to the National Showcaves Centre for Wales where the scouts and Explorers visited the 'Bone' cave ; 'Cathedral Cave' and the Dan-yr-Ogof Cave.

The weather was very hot for the first four days but then the rain came, it was like a Monsoon. However this did not detract from everyone having a good time.

07.00 on Friday saw the Troop challenging the muddiest and wettest assault course I have ever seen. At the conclusion a cold shower, direct from the hose pipe, was needed before they were allowed into the hot showers....all finished in time for breakfast.



We were lucky and the sun came out on Friday afternoon just in time for our 'Beach sandcastle Competition'



In all 26 of us had yet another very good summer camp and look forward to yet another Scouting year. Report by Cliff & Jackie Hunter

An usual Essex International Jamboree 2008 Activity

I'm sure Silver End were not the only Troop or Unit in the District to enjoy the one week of Sun this summer at the Essex International Jamboree. The 32 young people and 4 adults who made up our contingent together with the other 10,000 people on site made it a week to remember!



As well as all the activities, crafts, water sports, entertainment and just meeting new people Silver End took part in an activity unique to them? Did anyone notice a group of Scouts going round with a vacuum cleaner? Well if you did that was Silver End! They were challenged by their leader to do 'Extreme Hoovering' while at the Jamboree... They managed to pull it off and were seen on the climbing wall and scuba diving. Keep your eye out for the 'Extreme Hoover Team' as you never know where and when they will next appear...



Happy Anniversary to Silver End Scout Group.

80 years young and still having fun.

On Saturday 19th July, Silver End Celebrated 80 years since the group was first registered by holding a family fun day. As the leaders and committee were busy setting up the activities and stalls in the morning the rain

and winds threatened to make it a wash out – but the sun forced it's way through and made it a great day.

As well as side stalls, there were also a few Scouting activities going on that people could join in with. Such as Backwoods Cooking,



a cave simulator and tent pitching contests. Many of the activities were actually run by the older Scouts, so members of the local community also got to meet current Scouts and find out all about what we do. There were also displays of photos from recent activities and some past members got in contact before the day to provide us with photos and documents from the group over the years.

As the day was drawing to a close a few past members managed to get along. They proved that once a Scout always a Scout as they had lost none of their tent pitching skills by beating a group of girls in a race to get a hike tent up the quickest!



The day finished with a number of sponsored events. The GSL had his beard shaved off and the Scout Leader got gunged. But by the time he'd run round and shook the excess off nearly everyone went home covered in a bit of it though. For some reason some of the young people decided to dive in the pool of gunge as well!



A really fun day, enjoyed by all – people have already been asking when the next one will be.

Maybe in 10 years time to celebrate 90 years?

Report from Dan Sutton

[Essex Explorer News] Date for your diary –

Explorer Adults Training & Development Weekend - 28th Feb to Sun 1st March 2009

Hi everyone,

We are looking at arranging another Training & Development weekend at the County Training Centre at Thriftwood, to take place from Sat 28th Feb to Sun 1st March 2009.

This event is open to all DESCs, Acting DESCs, ESL, AESLs, Unit Assistants, and ESL Young Leaders.

Further details will be available in due course, but we hope to be able to offer some leader training modules on this weekend, as well as holding some useful sessions which will hopefully support you in your respective roles.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me, however in the meantime please save the date.

Best wishes,

Andy Cunningham

[Essex Explorer News] WINTAC 2008 - reminder for early bird booking

Hi everyone,

Just a reminder regarding wintac - the Essex Explorers winter activity camp! The event is taking place at Skreens Park campsite, Roxwell, near Chelmsford, from 14th to 16th November 2008.

Bookings at the early-bird rate of £30 per person are open until 30th September, after which time the cost will become £35 per person.

Wintac is set to be a excellent weekend for our young people to get together and have a great time! We are in the process of arranging some fantastic daytime activities and awesome evening entertainments! We are looking at 500 Explorer Scouts at this event not to be missed!

Further details and booking forms are available online at:

www.essexscouts.org.uk/wintac

We hope you can make it and we look forward to receiving your booking for your unit or district.

Best wishes,

Andy Cunningham
Assistant County Commissioner
(Explorer Scouts)
Essex Scouts

Wanted

Hatfield Peverel urgently need new Scout Leaders, from Christmas we will have no leaders to run the scout troop, it may have to close, is there anyone out there who can help us, or know of someone who can

Thanks for your help

if so please ring or email

Jo Jarvis GSL 01245 381113

joandkira@cubs.orangehome.co.uk

STOP PRESS.....

Training was recently started at Prances for the 2012 Olympia's newest sport, tree dodging!! Whilst clearing an area a certain tree was ear marked for the chop. Axes were tried but were not sharp enough. Chain saw was blunt so had to be sharpened.

Chain saw Les cut the V, and started the back cut. "Lets put a rope around it" cried the Camp Warden who probably had been dozing in the corner.

A rope was placed carefully around the item but it was felt that a little more height was required. "We can use a rake to lift the rope higher" an idea was voiced.

"I'll flick it up" (Camp warden), AND he gave it a tug!!!!

Well I do believe if you pull things they usually go that way. And it did.

Mr Andrew Goodwin was last seen hurtling across the lawn followed by the offending tree.

Health and safety were on hand but no comment was made due to the fact they were holding themselves with laughter.

Gillwell was contacted and made the ruling that it would be banned for a scouting activity.

Report received from Clive Searle.

MALDON AND EAST ESSEX DISTRICT
SCOUT COUNCIL
PRANCES CAMP SITE

*By popular request,
Presents the return of*



Supper & Song



with Jan, Philip & Richard

On Saturday 1st November 2008
in
The Peter Church Lodge, Prances

Suggested contribution
£10.00 each incl.

lucky ticket draw.

Tables of six or seven,
book a table for your Group:
block or individual bookings

with names to

Barry Cousins (01621-893298)
secretary@essexscouts.org.uk

Early booking advised
as numbers limited

Cheques to 'Maldon and East Essex District Scout
Council' Reg. Charity no. 1123146
All proceeds will go towards development at Prances.



Where did the summer go? After a hectic summer term with activities organised with various group, things died down a little during August. We had a few summer camps here ourselves and all had a fabulous

time. We had the usual scout camps but for something different a re-enactment group came for a few days, they came to us on their way for a tournament in Germany. They spoke in old English the whole time, were dressed in authentic costumes and to fit in with that era appeared not to wash! At one point they proudly told Andrew that they would be spending the whole break living the time period as accurately as possible with no mod cons. Within 5 minutes came a knock at the office door, once opened we were greeted by a sheepishly looking man in full costume asking if he could borrow a tin opener!! From my history lessons at school, I'm sure that baked beans and tinned stew wasn't around at that time, but you learn something new every day.

September has arrived and I don't think we have a weekend free now up until Christmas without something happening. Many groups in and out of the District are having family camps here.

Gangshow rehearsals have begun - you will all be pleased to hear that Dame Twinkle isn't making an appearance this time! It's good to see everyone back and quite a few new faces are here too, please come along if you wish to take part, you will have lots of fun and make many new friends.

The Cub Fun Day held back in July was a huge success, in the end there were 117 cubs here with plenty of leaders and we think everyone had a fabulous time and most cubs got thoroughly soaked from the huge water fight at the end! A date has been booked for next year. We now have a black bag full of lost property, if your cub has lost anything please call and see if it is here.

What has changed at Prances? We have had diseased and rotten trees felled, which will now hopefully create more light in the field. The next development is to have the field harrowed, fertilised and seeded to give it a much needed chance to recover. This will make a huge difference to the field and your camping.

Following much negotiation between Bill Meehan and the owner of the field behind the Peter Church Lodge, we are delighted to say that it has now been rented for 1 year and hopefully many more years to follow. The field is called Chubbies Field and the plan is to use it for camping whilst the main Prances site has a chance to rest. To camp at Prances on grass is a novelty for some and hopefully will continue into the future.

We have booked another Archery course for 29th/30th November and 13th/14th December, times are 9am-5pm, bring lunch, drinks will be provided the cost if we get 12 people will be £120.00. To book your place or for further details call Andrew or Sara on 01621 892876 or email prancescout@btinternet.com

The 1st weekend in September we had a working party here to move and remove the sheds behind

On behalf of everyone who was there, to everyone who came, many thanks for making the event such a brilliant success.

The numbers that attended far exceeded our expectations, with a final grand total of 117 Cub Scouts from all corners of the district having a great time. Even the sun came out to join us!

There were so many different things for the Cubs to try out that many didn't have enough time to complete everything, but feedback from parents and leaders suggests that there were a lot of tired but happy Cubs the following day!

The event finished with a massive water fight involving all the Cubs and any adults who could not get out of the way quick enough..., a magnificent "Fire Eating" demonstration, plus a thoroughly enjoyable campfire led by D.C. Rob Freake and Rodney Sandys.

Many, many, thanks go to large crew of adult leaders, helpers and young leaders who turned up to help out, run bases, fill out the paperwork and generally pitch in. The day could never have happened without the co-operation, patience and general goodwill displayed by all of you.

Special thanks are due to all the Cub Scouts who came and were all such fantastic ambassadors for their packs. Photos of the day can be viewed on the District website (www.meescouts.org.uk)

Looking forward to the next one!

Watch this space....

Phil Kilburn

ADC Cub Scouts

+++++

Many thanks for all your various items for this month's Maldon and East

Essex Newsletter.

I have not inserted the Directory amendments as the new District Directory for 2008 /09 will be published at the end of September.

If you have not yet sent me your up-dates please hurry !!

Thanks Ed.

The castle was investigated, more secret tunnels, walk around the Battlements, visiting the Church of St Mary in the Castle(this was very moving as there was a memorial to the local Regiment who had lost their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan including a soldier who was killed less than a year ago), the Princess of Wales Royal Regiment Museum and one of the highlights was the Admiralty lookout which looked out over the docks of Dover, many spent over an hour looking out

and watching the fast turnaround of ferries loading and unloading .This was two days after the fire in the Channel Tunnel so there was lots to see.

Everyone had to walk through the Peverell's gate. Most visited the NAFFI and one of our older members said the last time they were in the Naffi was in 1961. The shop was also visited and items purchased.

The group were stopped by both Americans and Australians and praised by the good behaviour and neatness of the group

The coach picked us up at 4.45pm and we arrived home at 6.35, there were many tired youngsters and adults on the coach some falling asleep on the way home.

Yet another good day out, we now start to look at next years trip
Report by ,Jo Jarvis, GSL



~~~~~

## URGENT PLEA....

**Will any Group who has not yet ( all 13 of you) sent in your 5p pieces for the Little Havens Hospice Appeal please contact the District Treasurer Mike Hopper ASAP. You can contact Mike on 01621-858586 or visit him at 46 Washington Road Maldon Or Email [mike.hopper@fiscali.co.uk](mailto:mike.hopper@fiscali.co.uk) Please deal with this request especially as it helps terminally ill children.**

## A Message from our Acting DC....

At the time of writing I have been acting DC in the District for just under three weeks. In the short time I've had in the District I have managed to meet with a number of members which has been great. Clearly there is a lot of good Scouting going on in Maldon and East Essex and I look forward to meeting more Leaders, supporters and young people over the next few weeks and months.

Whilst the search process is carried out for a new DC, there are a number of things that I hope to achieve. First to try and set up some more regular meetings with the District Team and GSLs. I also

believe we have some challenges with some administrative issues which I will be working through with the District Team, Executive and GSLs. That said, there are some great opportunities for the District to pull together and thrive and grow with some of the ideas I've been hearing about for Group and District events and activities. Let me know how you want the District to develop, what kind of activities and events you'd like to see, and what kind of support you want from the District Team. Please do share your thoughts and ideas with me!

Should you want me to visit an event or meeting I am more than happy to do so - please just drop me a line on [dcc.matt@essexscouts.org.uk](mailto:dcc.matt@essexscouts.org.uk) or phone me, my number is in the District Directory.

Best wishes,  
matt :o)

Matt Mills  
Acting District Commissioner

---

### New County Commissioner

Our County Commissioner, Bob Bye, has announced that he wishes to stand down from his role as soon as possible, in order that he can spend more time with his family due to personal reasons.

In view of the short time that Bob has been in post, and following discussions with Wayne Bulpitt, Chief Commissioner for England South, and Rob Lyon, Regional Commissioner East of England, it was agreed to shorten the normal Search Group process, and consider those individuals nominated for the role last year. This decision was also taken to enable the early appointment of a successor, whilst also most importantly ensuring continuity of Leadership for the County.

I am delighted to be able to announce that the Headquarters Appointments Sub-Committee has confirmed the recommendation of the Chief/Regional Commissioner, that Jan Dear be appointed as the new County Commissioner for Essex. Jan will take over from Bob Bye with effect from 1 October 2008.

This appointment is particularly exciting, as Jan will be the first female County Commissioner for Essex Scouts, which is excellent news. I am sure that you will all join me in congratulating Jan on her appointment, and provide her with your full support in her new role, as she takes the County forward.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Bob for the work that he has done during his time as County Commissioner. Following discussions with him, I am pleased to report that Bob will not be disappearing completely, and we are currently considering with him what future role best fits with his personal circumstances and time availability.

Yours, Paul J Stennett County Chairman

