

# MALDON & EAST ESSEX DISTRICT NEWSLETTER



December to March 2011 issue

Closing date for the next issue will be 13th JUNE

Many thanks to those who submitted reports.

Madness in the Mud!

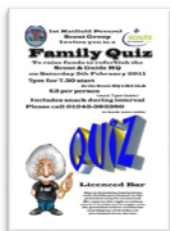
Scouts from 1<sup>st</sup> Silver End braved the elements at the weekend to take part in a National Winter Camp at Gilwell Park in Chingford. They joined 3000 other participants to try new and adventurous activities..



The rain, mud and overnight freezing temperatures did not dampen their spirits as they tried their hand at such activities as Quad Biking, Archery, various High Ropes and partied in the Disco until midnight.

As well as activities you would associate with Scouting, there was also Fairground Rides, Robot Wars, Sedgeways and Zorbing. Lauren Hatch, who took part in the weekend, said; 'Everything was really good, but I enjoyed the Zorbing the best. It was great fun rolling down the slope inside an inflatable ball. Report from Dan Sutton.

## A Big Thank You



**The 1<sup>st</sup> Hatfield Peverel Scout Active Support Section**

Would like to thank all the people who attended and had fun at the 1<sup>st</sup> Hatfield Peverel Family Quiz night. With your help we have raised

**£300**

Towards the refurbishment of our Headquarters.

# Cancelled Event

To all Cub Leaders.....

It is with great regret that due to an insufficient take up, the 2011 Maldon & East Essex Cub Scout Chess tournament has been

CANCELLED.

In order to help us decide as to whether it is worthwhile re-scheduling the event, please fill out the short questionnaire which can be accessed via District Web Page

Sincere apologies for any inconvenience that may have been caused by the cancellation.

Best Regards, Phil Kilburn ,ADC Cub Scouts, Maldon and East Essex 01621 779020

**Don't forget, information on upcoming district events can be found at [www.meescouts.org.uk](http://www.meescouts.org.uk)**

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Silver End Oscars



It was out with the activity clothing and in with the posh frocks, shirts and ties for Silver End Scouts as they celebrated everything they achieved in 2010 at a recent 'Oscar Ceremony'.

A few weeks before the big night the girls and boys voted in categories such as 'most improved Scout', 'hardest working Scout', and 'funniest Scout'. In total ten Oscars were up for grabs. The night began with a video show reviewing 2010,

before the awards ceremony started. Those that received the most votes from their fellow Scouts had to walk down the red carpet to be presented the Oscar by one of the invited guest. It was a great night and everyone left looking forward to more adventures in 2011, and hoping to impress enough in the next twelve months to maybe win an Oscar next year.

Report from Dan Sutton.

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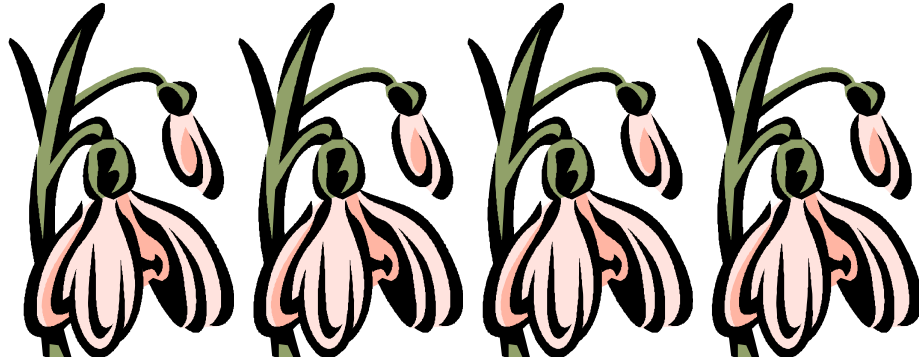
We would like to welcome Lucy Page ABL 1<sup>st</sup> Heybridge; Deborah Harwood SL 1<sup>st</sup> Bradwell and Joe Harwood BSL 1<sup>st</sup> Bradwell. as new leaders in the District, may you have a long and happy time in your roles.

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## What's on from the Kelvedon & Feering Group....

Kelvedon and Feering Scout group are planning to hold a sponsored walk on 1<sup>st</sup> May, we are calling it the "The Royal Walk". Anyone interested in joining contact the GSL Kevin on 01376 571907

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# Prances News

The cold, snowy winter is fast becoming a distant memory. Spring is certainly well on its way here at Prances, there are a scattering of snowdrops all over the site and the chapel has looked especially beautiful in recent weeks with all the snowdrops. Daffodils and bluebells are now showing themselves.

Christmas to early March has been reasonably quiet here – we had a few cancellations due to the snow and ice but now things are getting busy again. We look forward the 2<sup>nd</sup> District event (to be held at Prances) this year of the Handicraft competition and hope that as many sections as possible will enter.

Bookings for the summer have suddenly taken off and we are looking forward to our busiest summer yet! We only have a few days of peace in August – the Goodwin family is not going to have much of a lie in during those long hopefully warm days as we will be listening to our campers waking up at the crack of dawn and enjoying the smell of cooking bacon drifting across the site.

Activity team, guess where you will be this July/August? We will make sure there is plenty of refreshment and cake available for you all. If there is anyone out there that would like to join Activity Team or just come over to help out generally when we are busy – please feel free to give us a call or speak to one of us when you are next over.

We also have a couple County events to look forward to again – look out for the advertisements in due course and we look forward to seeing you at them.

Hopefully you all know that the Activity Area is now fully refurbished and is waiting to be used by all sections. We also have a Zip Wire available to be used and we have a few more little activities in the pipe line and hopefully these will be installed during the coming months. We again look forward to taking your bookings and your sections having a fabulous time trying out the new activities at their District Campsite.

We have many comments from neighbouring districts about how lucky the young people in Maldon and East Essex are to have their own District Campsite with great facilities and events organised for them. It seems many young people and leaders would love to join up with our District to enjoy what we all have here. Please make the best of it and come over for just an evening meeting. We are always pleased to see you and always given a warm welcome.

[prancescout@btinternet.com](mailto:prancescout@btinternet.com) 01621 892876 Andrew and Sara Goodwin



**Are you up to date with your training?**

I am interested to hear from anyone who has any of the following adult training issues.

Do you have any outstanding modules that you have completed and need validation?

Perhaps you need the opportunity to train on some modules that haven't been available to you yet. Or they may have passed you by because you weren't able to do them on the dates given.

There may be training that you weren't happy with. I need to know this, because the delivery of modules that fits everybody's criteria is important.



The next First Response course available to Adults is to be held on Sunday April 10 at Prances Training Ground. This course is also suitable for Young Leaders who need to complete Module K or Explorer Scouts who wish to do Emergency Aid - Stage 4.



Essex County Scouts School on the weekend of 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> March 2011 at Moulsham High School Chelmsford – an ideal opportunity to get some training done for your current needs or for ongoing learning. You can get validation as well.

There is a need for help with validation on the weekend shown below. Any District Training Advisors who may be interested please let me know and I will make sure that you are part of the team and you will be catered for.

**OPTIONS**

- Complete your Getting Started (GS) modules.
- Progress your learning with additional modules.
- Complete your training and pick up final modules.
- Get stuck into some more ongoing learning
- Access key resources from the County/Region/Headquarters

**BOOK YOUR PLACE NOW**

You can book on to the modules you require by downloading an application form from [essexscouts.org.uk](http://essexscouts.org.uk). Go to Adult Support/Training/Events in the calendar. Alternatively you can request an application form and further information from [scoutschool@essexscouts.org.uk](mailto:scoutschool@essexscouts.org.uk).

Places are limited so get in quick!

[essexscouts.org.uk/scoutschool](http://essexscouts.org.uk/scoutschool)

**SCOUTS take over the SCHOOL**

Saturday 26 March & Sunday 27 March 2011

The two day event for volunteers to learn or renew the skills to enhance the adventure of Scouting.

Moulsham High School, Brian Close, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 9E5

**ESSEX**  
[essexscouts.org.uk](http://essexscouts.org.uk)

**YOUR TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES**

Choose to take part in a number of modules suited to your needs. The worksheet will provide you with the opportunity to get involved in all the standard adult training modules in a training session or with support from the training team through a learning or workbook.

- Be a role model (Scout module 1)
- Tools for the Job (Section Leaders) (Scout module 2)
- Tools for the Job (Managers) (Scout module 3)
- Understanding the Value of Scouting (Scout module 4)
- Changes in Scouting (Scout module 5)
- Volunteering (Scout module 6)
- Skills in the workplace (Scout module 7)
- Working with Adults (Scout module 8)
- Adult Leadership (Section Leaders) (Scout module 9)
- Providing a balanced programme (Scout module 10)
- Growing the next generation (Section Leaders) (Scout module 11)
- Young People Today (Scout module 12)
- Understanding Behaviour (Scout module 13)
- Myths Away / Introduction to a Residential Experience (Scout module 14)
- Activities Outdoors (Scout module 15)
- Personal Skills (Scout module 16)
- Information Skills (Scout module 17)
- Adaptation Skills (Managers) (Scout module 18)
- Growing the Movement (Managers) (Scout module 19)
- Online Support (Scout module 20)
- Maintaining Safety (Scout module 21)
- Maintaining Health (Scout module 22)
- Apprentice Learning (Managers) (Scout module 23)

- Supporting Adults (Scout module 24)
- Supporting the Adult Appointments (New members only) (Scout module 25)
- Understanding the Adult Appointments to a New Unit (Adults only) (Scout module 26)
- Appointments, primarily with the focus to those with and over five or due appointments (Scout module 27)
- Volunteering - Training Activities
- Virtual Group (Scout module 28)
- Appointments (Scout module 29)
- Group Development (Scout module 30)
- Young Leader Training (Scout module 31)
- Programme resources
- Health and Hygiene (this will be chargeable)
- Be a role model (this will be chargeable)



[www.scouts.org.uk/scoutshold/](https://www.scouts.org.uk/scoutshold/)

It is likely that complementary modules will be grouped together to create specific courses.

The worksheet will be free to members of Essex Scouts but Scouter Day to members outside the county.

Please be aware that, whilst this course is free to Adult trainees, Explorers and Young Leaders will have to pay the course fee of £10, which should be claimed back from their respective Units.

The requirements for Adult Appointments who are due for their five year review is to take the appropriate Approved Safeguarding Training. This a two hour session covering responsibilities and issues covered by the Yellow Card and the Association policies for Child Protection and Anti Bullying.

All Adult Appointments must have completed this at the time of their review.

As local Safeguarding Coordinator I need to know who is due for review and wants to attend this training. All GSLs can contact me with their requirements.

And lastly, the local Getting Started course due for 6 March was cancelled due to lack of support, but I would like to put this back on the calendar. It may be an all day Sunday or over two week days. I will inform you of the date arranged.

If you are aware of any courses that you would like to attend then please contact and book in with

Derek Tatum - Local Training Administrator -email [derek.tatum@ntlworld.com](mailto:derek.tatum@ntlworld.com) - tel. 01206 865209

Thank you for all your valuable time that you devote to Scouting. I hope that you gain satisfaction and fun from your endeavours and I hope to get the chance to speak to you all and discuss any concerns or good stories you may have.

Rodney



# ***Secret Nuclear Bunker Adventure***

**ZERO HOUR: FRIDAY 11 MARCH 2011 19.30hrs**

**DESTINATION: SECRET NUCLEAR BUNKER SOMEWHERE IN ESSEX**

**SURVIVAL DEADLINE: SATURDAY 12 MARCH 2011 08.30hr**

Our mission was to complete a range of exciting challenges throughout the night and to survive until dawn.

Mission information may self-destruct in 30 seconds (although probably not!).

10 Troops joined the District team for this ultimate mission.

140 Scouts, Explorers and Leaders from Tiptree, Tillingham, Kelvedon and Feering, Maldon, Southminster, Witham, Black Water and Hatfield Peverel followed the secret coordinates and braved the journey. Everyone was treated to quite an adventure.

## **SECRET NUCLEAR BUNKER ADVENTURE**

When the participants arrived 'M' (alias the ADC Scouts) separated them into 20 teams of agents whose prime purpose was to survive. The team offhand picked M&M'S directed the agents to the locations where a range of challenges were on offer. Some of which involved abseiling, finding radioactive isotopes, bomb disposal, avoiding Booby Traps, finding the traitors and to just experience what it may have been like to live in a bunker.

**What a night!!!** Points were awarded for each challenge and the winning teams duly rewarded.

<b>Winners:</b>	Team 17	The Sunday Roasts	307 pts
<b>Second:</b>	Team 15	The Big Macs	247 pts
<b>Joint Third:</b>	Team 14	The Blue Bubbles	239 pts
	Team 20	The Invincibles	239 pts

All the participants enjoyed the night (well most of it) as did all the leaders. New friendships were forged and memories made. By the way Agents, green M&M is still missing, he never came home.

Many thanks to everyone who helped make this a very special night for the agents. I can't name you all for fear of forgetting someone (you know who you are) however I would like to especially mention the Game Master (AKA Laurence) and his able assistants Agents P, R, A, N, and K (AKA Phil, Tony Brian, Nev, and Keith) you were amazing. Did you all really complete the challenge of running between three floors in 30 seconds? Oops must have talked to the agents who lied. I would also like to thank the District climbing team for braving the adventure with us and Matt Bundy for the lovely food.

I was proud to be part of this Maldon and East Essex District event as the Scouts and Explorers were a credit to us as always and great fun was had by all.

Regards and final thanks from a still very exhausted and shell shocked M,

AKA Rosemary (ADC Scouts)

## **Next Scout Event:**

Skills and Training Weekend 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> March at Prances.

## Monster Success. At 1<sup>st</sup> Blackwater.....

At 1<sup>st</sup> Blackwater we have a Group Get Together at Christmas. This year the leaders, (all three of us!) decided that we wanted to continue the get together idea by linking the activities of the units in the Spring term with a common theme. It would allow us to share planning and resources and, as we all have to be involved with each of the units in some way, we thought it would save us some planning time and gain our Beavers, Cubs and Sea Scouts some badges. We did plan a programme for the Explorer unit as well but unfortunately due to lack of adults to provide sufficient leadership to the Explorers we have had to close the unit for the moment.

The theme we adopted was 'Monsters'. I thought I'd tell you a little about the programmes we ran as it worked really well and I'm sure some of you must be in the same situation regarding low numbers of leaders covering several units. (If any of you fancy trying 'Monsters out' and would like to have a look at the programme outlines just email me.)

The badges we wanted to do were:-

Beavers – Creative Challenge, and the Imagine and Healthy Eating badges.

Cubs – Creative Challenge, Book Reader (obviously done at home but we allocated a few minutes each week to keep everyone updated on who was reading what and to sign off their book lists) and Artist badges. They also started their Chef badge.

Scouts – Artist, Craft (which they completed) and Entertainer and Chef badges which are ongoing as they needed a bit more time.

Explorers were going to be working towards the Creative Arts and Performing Arts.

The basic plan was that each week we would read them a story... yes even the Scouts! I chose the books *Monsters under the bed*, *Not Now Bernard*, *Two Monsters*, *Three Monsters*, *The Monster Bed* and finally the beautiful story of *The Big Ugly Monster* and *The Stone Rabbit* and all the activities for the evening involved the 'plot' of each book.

We started with a bit of a discussion about the story for the week. In spite of being intended for a very juvenile readership there were a surprising amount of important issues raised in the books which Cubs particularly enjoyed discussing.

A bit of a rowdy game based on the book would follow. Each unit played a similar game but the resources needed were very similar: *The Two Monsters* in the book have a silly argument and start throwing rocks at each other so Beavers and Cubs had a *Monster Rock Fight* using ball crawl balls but Scouts, in teams, had to build a rock throwing machine from a pile of junk that we had gathered and have a competition to see which machine worked best.



Craft work for Beavers included drawing their own monster, painting a 'life sized' monster making monster place mats (with monster healthy eating tips on them) and laminating them, making monster book marks.

Cubs branched out by using several different mediums ( water colours, charcoal, ink pens, pastels etc) to produce monsters, their monster islands, a monster landscape as well as the place mat and book mark. They also created a 'make a monster' flip book and produced potato printed monsters. They also wrote a camp fire song, with actions, called "If you are a monster and you know it" which they will perform at the A.G.M.

With both units the smaller, some of the easier items were done as 'start activities' ( we also had monster spot the difference sheets, monster word searches etc etc – very easy to produce if you have any skill at all on the computer) during the first 10 minutes whilst waiting for everyone to arrive.

Scouts also did water colour paintings and pencil sketches of various monster imaginings alongside starting to write their own monster play which they are supposed to perform at the A.G.M.!

The final craft activity was base on the Very Ugly Monster and the Stone Rabbit...there wasn't a dry eye in the house when we read it!

Beavers had coloured playdough style modelling material, Cubs had air-drying clay and Scouts had wire, paper and Mod Roc plaster bandage in order to make them selves a stone friend.

Healthy Eating Cooking for Beavers involved:

Making Monster Sarnies (Club Sandwiches) with healthy fillings.

Making a monster face with cheese, vegetables and salad etc on a chapatti which was taken home to be put under the grill.

Making a Monster Mash Duvet. I made loads of mashed potato mixed with carrot, peas, sweetcorn, red pepper, beetroot etc etc chilled it in square trays and cut it into 1" squares which they were allowed to select to make a pattern of squares on their paper plates. They actually had 12 squares each. There were various decorations they could add; grated cheese, chorizo, peas, sweet corn, halved cherry tomatoes etc. Once again this was taken home to grill and eat.

We also tried 'monster fruits' – dragon fruit, lychees and any other fruit we could find in the shops that looked weird!

As Cubs are going on to do their Chef badge over the next few they did not do any 'cooking' but we found this programme enabled us to do the basic theory for the Chef badge in small doses amidst all the monstering. Cubs and Scouts will actually serve their meals to their parents at Shere Khan's (Jared's) café here in the village.

Scouts cooked their sarnies and chapatti wraps over an open fire outside – yes, in January with the rain and sleet coming down. They enjoyed it - but then they are totally mad.

Nearly all of the combatants gained all the badges – we still have a couple of Cubs finishing their Book Reader and of course the Scouts have a 'Post' programme discussion suggests that we will be repeating the experience, possibly at the same time next year – all we have to do is come up with a theme that is as entertaining. Any suggestions?

Ed Heigham. [beaverdentist@aol.com](mailto:beaverdentist@aol.com)

## Maldon Viking Explorer Unit.

In October last year we had one of those evenings where you sit down and discuss possible activities that could be organised. One of these was a canoe trip on the canal.

So with a "positive" attitude we set out to get the event up and away before the weather got too cold and the idea just became "another suggestion" that never happened. On the 20<sup>th</sup> November we arrived at Paper Mill lock to a damp cold morning and unloaded the canoes. We had Explorers canoeing with leaders all well wrapped up, spare clothes at the ready for what is normally the inevitable capsizes. In addition to this we had a following crew on foot and car to provide plenty of hot snacks at agreed points and also provide emergency cover in the event of a capsized canoeist needing warm shelter.

With no breeze and a chill in the air it was beautiful along the canal. We invented a new activity of pulling fishing floats and tackle from the bushes on the banks and managed a pretty impressive collection. We took many stops to take on hot drinks of coffee and soup with snacks to keep the cold out and allow us to move around and keep the circulation going.

Lunch stop was at Hoe Mill where we used a Trangia stove to cook up hot drinks and hot dogs ready for the return trip.

I am delighted to say that we had no one capsize on the trip and I am sure that the temperature of the water clearly played its part in helping us all pay attention. A swift dunking in the cold canal would have been an experience we neither wanted nor would forget in a hurry if it had occurred.

Thank you to those leaders and adults who kindly assisted. As always without your kind assistance this would not have been possible.

I still cannot get the vision out of my mind of Dan and Glyn skipping down the tow path with balloons in hand that they had found, very worrying!

Having decided we could take the cold we also took part in the Gilwell Winter Camp. We were hoping for a really cold spell with a heavy frost as this keeps the mud at bay. But with almost a week of rain prior to the event we waded through the mud onto the site. Having selected a pitch away from the mud and crowds we hoped to avoid the worst of the mud. Despite what was a great plan we woke in the morning to be surrounded by even more tents and the Somme experience began in earnest.

The Explorers enjoyed the activities having freedom to explore on their own and meet up at agreed times for meals. We opted for meals cooked for us and eaten in a dining area and looking at the state of some of the groups who were cooking food for themselves we had the right idea.

The nights were cold but it was good to see the guys work together and cope with the conditions. I am convinced if they can come out of a wet and muddy camp at Gilwell with 3000 other people wallowing around in the mud then they will cope with anything.

Every year I say "never again" but I am sure we will be back.

Many thanks to Phil Kilburn for joining us assisting with the event and making it all possible. A special thanks to Cliff for helping sort out the kit.

Going forward we have a varied program and are trying to attempt a variety of activities and at the same time link up with other Explorer groups in the District.

It is a pleasure to work with the Explorers. It is very rewarding to see how the young people develop in character and take more control of their scouting at this age. I hope they are really enjoying it and getting as much out of it as I am.

If you know anyone or would like to share in the fun yourself and help out with the Explorers please let me know and come along and see what is involved. With some assistance who knows what we could achieve. You do not need any experience, just a sense of humour.

Thanks again,

Andrew Goodwin

Explorer Leader, Maldon Viking Unit.

**60 Beaver Scouts from the Maldon and East Essex District joined together to start celebrating 25 years of Beaver Scouts, at Prances Campsite in Little Totham. How have you celebrated the fun and adventure of Beaver Scouting locally?**

Throughout the day the Beaver Scouts took part in a whole load of fun and challenging activities.

Dylan, aged 7 years old from 3rd Witham Beaver Scout said "Beavers is fun and I like making friends. If I did not go to beavers I would be sitting at home playing on my DS or watching TV and would not have made my friends".



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## Hatfield Peverel's News.

Last week saw a triple investiture by the DC Derek Joyce at the 1st Hatfield Peverel Scout Unit, The GSL Darren Nicholas, SL Neville Oldfield and ASL Tony Price. We wish them all the best in their new roles in Scouting.



Whilst at the Unit Derek Joyce

DC awarded a Chief Scout Gold to Alex Claydon.



During the same evening Neville led his first Scout Investiture and Invested Jamie Hosking into the Scout Troop. Report by Tony & Nev

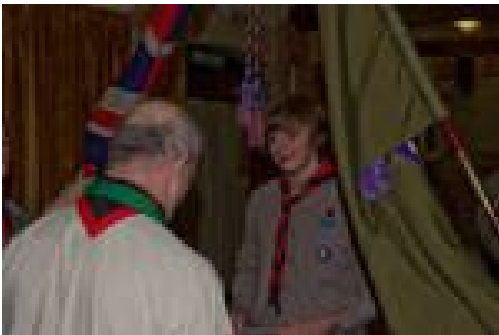
## Viking Unit Maldon's News.....



The latest addition in the membership of the Viking Explorer Unit, Maldon was when Tommy Price was duly Invested as an Explorer Scout by Andrew Goodwin.



The Unit would like to extend a warm welcome to Tommy and may he have a long and happy time there. Ed.



During the same evening two other awards were presented, this time by the District Commissioner, Derek Joyce. The first award to be given was to Unit member David Huett who gained the Chief Scouts Platinum Award and a short while ago gained the Duke of Edinburgh's Silver Award.

The other was to Unit member Oliver Brighton, pictured below on the right, who gained the Chief Scouts Diamond Award and also gained his Duke of Edinburgh's Silver Award which was presented a few weeks ago.

Both Unit members have worked very hard to attain this standard and the awards were well deserved.





# 2012

## FEBRUARY

### 11th - 14th

(Could be 15th depending on flights)



## INFORMATION

An international opportunity is being organised for Explorer Scouts to take part in during 2012. It is aimed just at the Explorer Scout age. If there is available spaces we will be able to take adults too, but this is subject to them getting a cleared Scouting CRB.

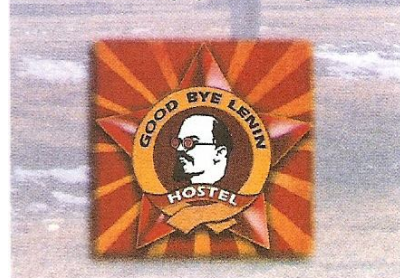
The date of the trip is Saturday 11th February - Tuesday 14th June (but maybe until the 15th depending on flights), which is in the school holidays.

We will be staying in the 'Goodbye Lenin Hostel' in Krakow. We have stayed at this hostel on numerous other occasions and have always been made to feel welcome by the staff and other guests staying. It is not a Scout Hostel, so other members of the public will also be there.

We will be staying in multi-bedded dormitories with either en suite facilities or showers near by..

Food is on a full board basis with a continental breakfast and evenings meals served in the restaurant next door. Where needed the Hostel will also provide a packed lunch.

On the last evening we will eat out at a 'Peasant Restaurant with singing and dancing.



On Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March Dan Sutton kindly gave a presentation of the forthcoming District Explorer Scouts trip to Poland in February 2012.

Unit Members of Southminster and Kelvedon & Feering accompanied by the Viking Maldon Unit who hosted the evening .

The presentation was excellent and a lot of interest in attending was shown .

I understand that Dan would be prepared to visit your Unit and run the presentation for your Unit by arrangement.

For further information please contact Dan Sutton direct on either his mobile 07970 730 636 or email him at [dan@silverend-scouts.org.uk](mailto:dan@silverend-scouts.org.uk)

Thanks Dan for a good evening. Cliff-

### A message from the D.E.S.C. (District Explorer Scout Commissioner).

Just a few words to all of the Explorer sections. Please bear with me while I make contact with all of the Units. My plan is to make a personal visit to introduce myself to you although this has been slightly delayed due to a minor health issue. To date I have managed to visit 3 units and I am encouraged by the reception I have received. The leaders and the young people are enthusiastic and I hope that by collecting your thoughts and opinions I may be able to offer you support and assistance where you feel it would be of benefit.

I hope that by working together we will be able to encourage our Explorer units to mix together to share both some ideas and also some program evenings. This should be beneficial to all, but especially to the smaller units who will be able to learn from the larger groups the secret of success. From those groups I have already visited I am pleased to see that this sharing of ideas and evenings is now already happening and I hope this will expand in time.

So if I have not been in touch as yet please bear with me. By the end of April I expect to be back to full speed and so will be in touch shortly.

Kind regards,

Andrew Goodwin.

