



Maldon & Motivation

East Encouragement

Essex Endeavour

District Delivery



Volume 1 Issue 3 September 2007

NEWS LETTER

Sunrise Ceremonies around the District....

TIPTREE SCOUTS SUNRISE CAMP



As 2007 is the Centenary Year of the First World Jamboree at Hylands Park Chelmsford, it was natural for the Tiptree Scout Group to want to join in the renewal of promise ceremony planned for 1st August, when every Scout Group in the world was asked to join in at 8am local time.

We chose to run a family camp at Skreens Park near Chelmsford and just 5 miles from the main jamboree. This allowed Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Young Leaders and Leaders together with their families to take part in a fun event around the Promise Ceremony.

We found that we would be among over 1500 people on site from around the world. As well as British scouts they came from Italy, France, Holland, Canada, Germany, Spain, Switzerland, America, Denmark and Belgium.

Six of us arrived at Roxwell on July 31st at about 11am to put up our central camp - a Marquee for dining and meeting, a large kitchen tent with a large gazebo between them to keep the sun off the serving area. Our own tents were next. Families started arriving from 2pm onwards and they all erected their own tents. There were 18 families with ages ranging from 14 months to 65 years. Most people stayed for the 2 nights, some for just 1, others came early in the morning in time to renew their promise.

Skreens Park put on entertainment for the Tuesday evening and these included a free B.B.Q., Disco and bands playing on the lawns.

On Sunrise day we all congregated in the main arena at 7.45am ready for the ceremony to begin at 8am. A scout to represent each of the countries and each led their promise in their own language. There was a very large Birthday cake with a sunrise on it to celebrate the 100 years.

After the ceremony we all went back to own camps for breakfast. At 10am all the different groups put on activities these included pancake tasting (served with real Canadian maple syrup), kite making, woggle making, badge swapping, chess, 2 handed sawing, street hockey, 5 a-side football, giant jenga and radios. Tiptree had Snakes and ladders, Jenga, parachute games and water rockets. These continued until about 4pm with a break for lunch. As the lake was not being used in the afternoon, we organised canoeing for the Tiptree Group with our 6 Canadian canoes and 2 kayaks. Just as we were about to finish a group from Warwickshire asked if they could have a go. Everyone enjoyed the canoeing and the swimming in the lake. By 5 o'clock most were ready for dinner.

After we had finished dinner we cleared the tables to the edges of the Marquee and had a

campfire (without the fire) sing song this was led by our Group Scout Leader Rod Sandys. For some this was their first taste of campfire singing.

On the last day, once breakfast was over, it was time to pack up. Everyone helped to get the big tents down and then packed their own away, before our farewell ceremony and badge presentation.

It was a good couple of days and it was nice to meet up with some many different nationalities. The weather was very hot and the sun cream got plenty of use.

During the camp Rod Sandys was proud to present Cub Leader Lisa Grantham with her "Wood beads". This marked the completion of her formal leader training and made her a welcome member of Baden Powell's Gillwell Scout Group.

We would like to thank everyone who came to the camp and hope they enjoyed it as much as we did.

Pam & Mike Robards & Rod Sandys.

Summer camp with a difference.

Scouts 12 day Hungary Adventure For Silver End and Heybridge.



August 15th

37 Scouts and 10 leaders set off from Silver End at 10:30am for the long journey to Hungary. 28 hours later we arrived at our destination - a small village called Domös on the Danube Bend

August 16th

After unpacking and having something to eat we walked down to the riverbank where it was safe to swim. You could almost walk half way across the Danube before it dropped below knee level! After the long journey and the temperature in the high 30's a cool off in the river was much needed



Swimming in the Danube

August 17th

After sitting for so long on the coach, then what better than a hike to the next village called Visegrád. We set off after breakfast walking along the riverbank for half of it. With the heat rising and the Scouts tiring we switched to the footpath along the road. Once in Visegrád we had our packed lunches then started the tough walk up to castle. It was hard going and very hot so we all had to keep stopping to take on water so no one got



Sunrise held at 1st Maldon with over 70 in attendance. After the renewal of promises there was breakfast for all followed by fun and games till 11.30. The guest of honour was Brian Mead Chairman of the Maldon District Council.

Any more Sunrise events can be published in the next issue.Ed.

Many thanks to those who have contributed in this Issue.
The closing date for the next Issue is the 25th November 2007.
Please keep the articles of your news coming in. I have already started on Issue 4, the December issue. Ed.

dehydrated. It was well worth it once at the top as the views beyond the castle overlooking the Danube were amazing. We took plenty of time to savour them and to look around the rest of the castle.



Hike to Visegrád



Toboggan's

It was then a short up hill walk again to the Toboggan's. The Scouts and their leaders had brilliant time racing round the course with a few thrills and spills but no major injuries. For many it was the highlight of the week.

We got our coach driver to pick us up when finished, but rather than going straight back to our home in Hungary, we stopped in Lepence at the Swimming Pool and Thermal Spa. A great way to cool down again in the pool or just relax in the natural thermal spa – that's where you would find most of the leaders anyway!



Cruising on the Danube

August 18th

A more relaxing day today as we cruised up the Danube to Esztergom. A nice relaxing trip in glorious sunshine again. Once there we went to the biggest Church in Europe. It was another steep climb to get to it but once inside the décor and ambience of the place were unique. There were a number of weddings going on, but tourists were allowed in to look around it! Seemed a bit strange to us – but I guess normal to the locals.

We then had time to look around the market stalls and buy any gifts we wanted. Since it was still so hot when we got back to Domös, we once again went down to the river to cool off

August 19th

We ventured out to Lake Balaton, but it took longer than expected due to the Bank Holiday in Hungary. The long coach trip was worth it though as we were greeted with sandy beaches and warm water to swim and mess about in. Some Scouts hired pedalo's, while others just played on the flumes or messed about in the lake. A storm set in for the night when we got back and dinner was eaten by

torch light as the whole village had a power cut – the girls thought it was their hair dryers and straighteners that had caused it!

August 20th

A very energetic day was in store for us, as we canoed 16 miles down the Danube (two thirds of the way to Budapest). Only one canoe capsized, but the 4 Scouts that fell out found it funny and one of the highlights for them. With the storm the night before the river was flowing much faster, so made it a bit easier going – we were just glad we were going with the current and not against it. After 6 hours on the river sitting in canoes most people had aches and pains in places they didn't know they had muscles. A number of Scouts and Leaders had never done canoeing before and overcame their fear of water. It was a once in a life time experience - how many other young people can say they have canoed down the Danube?

Canoeing down the Danube



August 21st

We took part in an activity in the forest behind us this morning. A navigational exercise using GPS equipment. In 5 groups the Scouts, Leaders and guides had to navigate around the forest to find markers. It wasn't just a stroll in the forest with banks to climbs, waterfalls to go up rough terrain to cross. Even though it was harder than expected it was still great fun. Everyone returned with their own story of how and where they fell in the mud!

After lunch, we jumped on the local bus (cost us 20p each) and went back to the swimming pool and Spa in Lepence.

August 22nd

An early start as we were off on a tour round Budapest. We met our guide at 10.30am where he took us to the Citadel, Castle and other monuments within the city. We also went on a cruise down the river where we were given the history of each of the banks (the Buda side then the Pest side). It was very informative and when questions were asked later nearly all of the Scouts answered correctly.

Zolton, our guide, then took us to a restaurant serving traditional Hungarian food for our lunch. A goulash was followed by a pork dish and then a cream and pastry dessert. As the Scouts were so well behaved, he even said that if anyone wanted more he would pay for it for them as he was enjoying their company so much and being our guide for the day.

We then went to do some souvenir shopping, where the Scouts brought gifts for their parents that had paid for them to go on the trip. Our day in the city wasn't over though, as we now headed for the Planetarium to watch a laser light show. Tonight's performance was to Pink Floyd. It was fantastic with beams of lights dancing around our heads. It

was something none of us had ever seen or ever likely to see again (unless we go back).

August 23rd

Today was another early start as we were off to Puzsta to see a horse show. It wasn't just horses jumping over fences though. Men rode them standing up, had them sitting like dogs, jumping over fire and other various acrobatic tricks. Before the show we had a ride in a horse cart and were also supplied with more Hungarian food once it had finished. The Scouts by now were used to it and plates were piled high with cabbage, turkey and pork.

On our return we went via Statue Park, which was a museum where all the old statues from the communist era are on show. It provided the Scouts with a chance to look back on how life must have been like once under occupation – as well as a chance to sit in a Trabant car!

With the temperatures in the high 30's/low 40's again we went off to the river again for our last swim in it before going home.

August 24th

Our last full day in Hungary still had plenty of adventure. It started with laser fighting in the forest. The best way to describe this is Paint Ball with Lasers. In teams we had to destroy each other or capture the flag. Using 1km square of the forest we could hide in streams, behind rocks trees or up on the hills overlooking the opponents. The first game ended with one of the girls being the only surviving team member but managed to hold off 5 from the opposing team for about 15 minutes before losing her last life. She came walking out of the forest covered in mud to a huge round of applause from everyone.

After showering and starting to pack a little we then went to watch a Knights Tournament in Visegrád. A King, Queen and Jester was chosen from the Scouts and then we watched Knights battle it out. With bows and arrows, cross bows, throwing stars and swords. It was cleverly put together with no one actually getting hurt and at the end the Scouts were given chance to try some of the weapons. The day didn't end there though, as we walked back down to the hill where we enjoyed our last meal – a Banquet. We all had crowns to wear and goblets to drink from. It was an excellent way to end the Trip, and once back at our building, T-shirts were signed and memory books filled in.

August 25th

The last day was simply, pack, clean and leave. We left at 10:00am Hungarian time and arrived back in the UK at 10:30am the following day (so just over 25hours). It was an excellent adventure, enjoyed by everyone. It was sad to see it end, but the spirit of Scouting shone out from it and many new friends were made that hopefully will remain friends for a long time to come.



You can see more photos on the District Web Page, at www.meescouts.org.uk

District Scout Shop Prances

**M& EE District Scout Shop Managers.
Dave & Teresa Cousins**

4, Charterhouse.

Basildon SS16 4BG

01268-286736

07702729188

Scout Shop Address

Prances Scout Camp

Great Totham Road

Wickham Bishops

CM8 3NP

Opening Times

Saturdays 10.00 to 13.00 Hrs

Wednesdays 17.00 to 19.00 Hrs

Other Times by appointment only

01621-892876



A floral tribute for the Centenary of Scouting. This is in the Maldon Promenade Park, through the main gate and you will find it on the left hand side. Sue Finch, who works in the parks department and who is also one of 1st Maldon's parents, accomplished the Artistry. Many thanks to Maldon District Council and Parks Dept. for such a good display. Ed.

Your District's Badge Secretary's Updated details.....

Will you please note that Margaret's telephone number is **01376 : 573 851**

She has requested me, to ask you, **NOT** to use her mobile number, and that it is removed from the District Directory. Please respect her wishes. Ed.

Prances District Scout
Camp Site Starburst Project

2007 Starburst Project that the site was delighted to be a part off.

Early in the year Prances District Scout Camp Site offered to act as a host site for the Jamboree Starburst Project. Exactly how the event would run was not totally clear at that stage.

The plan was to offer community and conservation projects to groups who would visit for the day from the Jamboree. At the same time the visiting groups would also get the opportunity to take part in an activity organised by the site.

We put ourselves down to take 4 coaches over 4 days and planned as many activities as we could to ensure we did not run out of work. Initially we appeared to have far too many jobs.

Nearer the time we were asked if we could host two additional groups and with the growing list we agreed.

So our 6 coaches each with about 45 scouts started to arrive.

Some arrived very tired, some bleary eyed and all assembled. They had come from Germany, Brazil, Japan, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Italy, America, Canada, Norway, Sweden, France, Lithuania and also England to name just a few.

We had also the support from our active service team and many adult helpers who had gladly offered their time to assist in leading the groups of workers.

Despite many of the scouts being tired from the whole Jamboree experience they set about the tasks as though their lives depended upon it. For example, taking down an old fence estimated as a 45 minute job if you rushed, took a small group of American's under 10 minutes. It was a similar situation on most tasks. The pressure came in trying to keep all willing parties fully occupied and get the next jobs set up in time.



We managed to achieve the following: -

- Painting the fences and gates
- Trimming down the hedges
- Weeding out the flower borders
- Clearing away rubbish from the site
- Removing a few trees and bushes to create additional space for a fire circle area
- Cutting, drilling and assembling benches from railway sleepers to place around the new fire circle.
- Digging a fire pit and building a surround
- Painting the fire buckets and fire points
- Putting in posts and adding a new fence around the new climbing tower
- Making seating for the climbing tower
- Moving the huge wood pile and re positioning this to the edge of the site having sorted good wood from waste
- Painting the main building and some of the windows

Painting the sheds
 Cutting the grass
 Tidying up and repairing some of the assault course
 Tidying up the archery and rifle range
 Repairing the fences to the conservation area
 Moving up rooted tree stumps to other areas.



Burning all waste timber and growth

It wasn't all hard work though. Each group also took part in a local area walk and quiz. This took the scouts passed the Beacon, gave them an opportunity to see a local village pub "The Green Man" and included a visit to St Mary's Chapel, a local chapel that seats about 12 people. Only one group managed to get slightly lost.

Once back to site they were all treated to an English tea. The scones, jam and cream were initially slow to be taken up but after the first few scouts started to tuck in there was no stopping them.

An opportunity to swap badges, scarves and gifts or just sit in the shade and talk was also appreciated.

It was moving to see scouts from all over the world, different backgrounds, different languages, different cultures all pulling together to give their time freely and willingly. There was no conflict, no arguing, no tantrums, no bad language. Just young people showing what working together can achieve. The stark contrast between this harmony and the conflict from around the world reported in our newspapers daily was quite an eye opener. It was great to see the smiles and laughter as we all worked in the glorious sunshine.

The improvements to the site were dramatic and we achieved so much in such a short period of time. So many memorable moments come to mind, the sight of scouts dressed in overalls made from bin bags, the American lads who were determined

to finish their entire task in a morning though it was planned as a two day job, the look of delight as a young member of our service crew saw his allocated team of young beautiful Italian girls, the sense of achievement as the entire group of 45 pulled on ropes to drag away very large tree stumps. Oh, and not forgetting the English lads who thought it would be great to not only paint the building black, but also their fellow scouts!

What a brilliant experience for all concerned with really worthwhile results.

We were proud to be a part of the Jamboree. Not only did I witness the above but I also met and talked to the scouts. It was amazing to see how we could all communicate with limited language, a few waved gestures and a sincere smile.



And finally a sincere thank you goes to all of those people who helped us run the activities and site work. Without their efforts it could not have been achieved.

Andrew and Sara Goodwin.
 Site Wardens. Prances Camp Site,
 Wickham Bishops.

Groups, If you have any activities that you would like to advertise either in the newsletters or on the District Web Page please let us know.

For Newsletters contact
cliff.hunter1942@btinternet.com

For District Web Pages contact
phil@maxwebster.me.uk

There is also a Gallery for your photos.

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO BECOME PART OF OUR INSTRUCTING TEAM

Courses have been booked for Rifle shooting and Archery.

Why not become a fully qualified instructor?

The dates of the courses are as follows:-

Rifle shooting is Saturday 3rd February 2008 at a cost of £27.00



Archery is a 4 day GNAS course starting Saturday and Sunday 1st and 2nd March 2008 and finishing Saturday and Sunday 8th and 9th March 2008 the cost will be £112.50 if we have 12 people to do the course.



If you are interested in joining any of these courses, then please call Andrew or Sara on 892876 or email prancesscout@btinternet.com

Jambo report from Hatfield Peverel's Contingent



Making Friends From Poland

The world Scout Jamboree was the centre-piece of the Scouting's Centenary celebrations. Attended by over 40,000 Scouts from over 180 countries and held on our doorstep at Hylands Park in Writtle, it truly was an amazing experience.

Throughout the 13 days we learned to live together with our immediate neighbours from Japan, Nigeria, Italy and the USA, dining with them on several occasions! We also met people from a plethora of other nations. It was a global village in the heart of our country. We also had visits from many famous faces. Most people would agree that the visit of HRH Prince William was a definite highlight!

The 1st August saw the Sunrise Ceremony, where everyone gathered to watch the sunrise and renew their promises on the Centenary date, 1st August 2007.

Live doves were released for peace and there was an amazing show followed by various faith celebrations. This was a truly moving experience.

We also had days out at 'Splash'; the water activities day, 'Starburst'; the community project, and 'Gilwell Adventure' where we learned about Gilwell Park, the home of Scouting, and took part in some of the great activities on offer there. We also spent days doing on-site activities relating to climate change, global poverty, and accepting other cultures.



The Buddha from the King of Thailand, a gift to English Scouts. It weighed 2.5 tonnes. On entry we had to remove our shoes.

Everybody who went learnt so much whilst having so much fun and meeting so many new friends. The saying 'there are no strangers here, just friends you are yet to meet' really did ring true. By the end of the jamboree we knew what all the hard work and fundraising had been for – the best two weeks of our lives, and an experience we would never find anywhere else!

We now look forward impatiently, to our unit reunion, which is a week in Frankfurt in October.

Daniel Flynn

Js Privateers Explorer Unit Hatfield Peveler.

Note: A point of interest ...The 1st Hatfield Peveler Group was started in 1910. Ed.

Request for correction from Tiptree

I have been asked by the GSL of Tiptree to insert the following:-

“The Group was re registered as Tiptree Scout Group way back in 2001. They are no longer the ‘1st Tiptree Scout Group’ and therefore they would appreciate the correct title.

Please refer to them as-- ‘ Tiptree Scout Group’ in future. Thanks, Ed.

Training Module 10

If anyone requires the ‘First Response’

(First Aid) part of their training requirements, either for the first time or as a refresher, please contact either John Smith (LTM) or Rod Sandys---Tiptree Scouts.

Saturday 20th October 2007 - 10am to Midnight

Prances Scout Activity Centre

Come along to Prances and Join in with a world wide event. Most of the communication takes place over a chat network called IRC, the Internet Relay Chat.

JOTI allows you to build friendships with Scouts in other countries and to find out more about their civil and scouting life.

You will also get the opportunity to talk to other Scouts via Voice Over I.P. (talking through the Internet).

Time on your hands...?



Hey you! Got any spare time?

Well if you have, have you ever thought about becoming a volunteer service crewmember? Well Prances campsite, located in Wickham Bishops (Witham), is giving you the ongoing opportunity to join in.

So what happens at Prances?

Well, you meet lots of new friends, create good friendships with other people, learn many different skills, learn how to instruct youngsters and even become a full instructor, do site maintenance, and have FUN!! And the warden in nice weather invites us all along to a BBQ, not bad going eh?

So what's the catch?

Ok, so there isn't so much a catch just a few things to look at. You will need to: -

- Be a part of the scout or guide association
- Pay subscriptions to your own section
- Be willing to help out at some weekends
- Be enthusiastic
- Be over 14 years old
- And be prepared to have a great time!!

So where does the service crew stay?

The service crew stay on site in the buildings with clean water, kitchen and toilet and shower facilities, electrics and heating.

The costs????

There are no costs. You come to site, you help out with the activities run for scout and guide group and help out on site projects. The accommodation is free. You just bring the food you wish to eat and prepare it on site; however some arrangements are made for this.

What would I have to bring for a weekend?

- Change of clothes
- Wash kit
- Sleeping bag
- Boots
- Trainers
- And yourself!!!

Centenary Challenge Cup'



Anyone For Rounders??!!

1st Maldon All Saints Scout Group played host to the 'Centenary Challenge Cup' Rounders Match on Saturday 22nd September at their Brickhouse Farm HQ.

The 1st Maldon 'Challenge' went out to the District back in July. 1st Beacon Hill and Kelvedon and Feering were brave enough to accept! The main objectives were to have fun, get to know other groups from the new District and raise much needed funds.

Four teams of twelve took part, two from Maldon and one each from Beacon Hill and Kelvedon. The evening event kick-off at 5.00 p.m. with four matches to determine winners and runners-up. Kelvedon were victorious beating the other teams by some margin due in no small part to intensive practice sessions leading up to the event!!

Half-time sustenance was catered for through the sale of burgers and hot dogs; soft drinks, teas and coffees were provided free of charge throughout the event.



At around 7.00 p.m with the light dimming outside, the teams retired to the main hall where a crowd of about 30 very vocal supporters were treated to a first class display of one-on-one hockey where no quarter was given or taken! The games concluded with an equally competitive, not to say very noisy

'balloon race'. Honours for both the inside games went to 1st Beacon Hill.

By 8.30 p.m. there was just the raffle and the all-important prize-giving. The two 1st Maldon Teams, 'Kestrels' led by Nigel Hunter and 'Eagles' led by David Fry came 3rd and 4th respectively. 1st Beacon Hill, jointly led by Lauren and Sophie, came a very creditable 2nd leaving Kelvedon's Team Captain, Matthew, to collect the winner's trophy from Cliff Hunter, 1st Maldon's GSL. Each member of the Kelvedon team also received a winner's medal.

The 'Centenary Challenge Cup' trophy itself is a globe, which fittingly follows the recent World Jamboree 'One World, One Promise' theme and also looks like a rounders ball!! The Kelvedon and Feering team were invited to proudly show-off the trophy at their next meeting. It will be engraved over the next month or so and then retained at 1st Maldon for safe keeping until the next 'Challenge'



Winning Team Kelvedon & Feering

All in all, the evening was a great success and lots of new friendships were made.

Ian Williams, Geoff Odell, Nigel Hunter and David Fry are to be congratulated for inspiring and encouraging their young people to take part.

1st MALDON are running a

**Group Treasure Hunt
Sunday 7th October**

Start 2:00pm from Scout HQ

Finish around 5:00pm
(unless you get lost!)

Come & join us for cream teas, raffle & prize giving back at the Scout HQ at the end.

Adults £2. Children (5-14) £1. Cream Teas £2.50.

I would like to book places on the Treasure Hunt for

___ adults (£2) ___ children (£1) ___ cream teas (£2.50)

Name _____

Telephone _____

