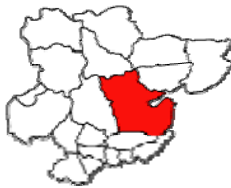


Maldon & East Essex District



Where in the District are we??
Answers to the Ed.

Last months picture was of course Hatfield Peverel.

Volume 2 Issue 1 May 2008

CONGRATULATIONS

Ian Valentine has been awarded the Silver Acorn for especially distinguished services over a period exceeding thirty years on St. George's day this year.

Ian was Chairman of East Essex District for 17 years until about 13 years ago and remains on the Prances Management Committee, recently taking over as Chairman. He spent a few years as external evaluator of the Essex Experience, the County Community Development Project for underprivileged young people before spending three years or so as Chairman of the Essex Experience Management Committee. All this followed Ian volunteering to be a member of 3rd Witham (St Nicolas) Fundraising committee in the early 1970s. Well done Ian!



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MALDON AND EAST ESSEX DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

FORMAL NOTICE AND INVITATION

The First Annual General Meeting of the District Scout Council will follow the Formal Opening of the New Toilet Block

At Prances

7.00pm on 2nd July 2008

All, as listed below, are invited.

Refreshments /Buffet will be served after the Opening Ceremony and before the start of the AGM.

Nominations for some members of the District Executive Committee must be received by the District Secretary by 2nd June 2008

Rsvp: Madeleine Flowers, District Secretary, 12 Hunt Close, Feering, CO5 9LN

NOTE: The following are voting members of the District Scout Council:

- Commissioners;
- Scouters;
- Administrators; i.e. Group Chairmen/Secretaries/Treasurers as well as District Officers etc.
- Section Assistants; - these used to be called Helpers!
- Skills Instructors;
- Advisers;
- all Explorer Scouts;
- all members of the District Scout Network; n.b. We do not have one!
- Chairmen of Troop Leadership Forums in the District;
- Members and Associate Members of the Movement registered in the Scout District and including Members of District Scout Fellowships;
- all parents of Explorer Scouts;
- persons elected or reelected annually by the District Scout Council on the recommendation of the District Commissioner and the District Executive Committee;
- the County Commissioner and County Chairman are ex officio members of the District Scout Council.

We have received the following instruction from Gilwell regarding CRB checking.

Re: Requirements for Disclosure Checking

Disclosure checks have been a valuable tool in our work since they were introduced in 2002. The Association processes around 50,000 checks annually and continues to see them as a crucial part of the adult appointment process.

Criminal Records Disclosures in the UK are issued by the Criminal Records Bureau, Disclosure Scotland and, from April 2008, Access Northern Ireland. For ease of reference checks by these bodies are referred to as 'Disclosures' below.

There are two changes to our current arrangements that you should be aware of:

1. The Committee of the Council has decided that all adults should be required to **renew** their Scouting Disclosure at least every five years. For those in appointments that are subject to a formal review (using Form AR) this new Scouting Disclosure should ideally be carried out at the time of their appointment review.

2. Some volunteers were in post prior to the introduction of Disclosure checks in 2002. The Association has, for operational reasons, not formally required that checks should be completed by those not changing their appointment or District. This means that some adults working locally may yet have to complete the Disclosure process. This matter should now be addressed. Districts are asked to ensure that all adults with an open appointment have completed a Scouting Disclosure check by 31 December 2008.

The necessary amendments to Policy, Organisation and Rules to reflect these changes will be included in the next published edition. I am sure that you will agree that these enhancements to our use of the Disclosure process are reasonable and appropriate. They will help us to continue to ensure that Scouting is both safe and is also seen to be safe by parents, our own volunteers and the wider public.

Thank you for your support. Yours sincerely,

David J C Shelmerdine The Secretary

A note from your Records Secretary John Reed

Can I please ask that if we still have anybody who has contact with the young people and who has not been CRB checked then forms are sent to me ASAP, this includes Group Chairmen, Secretaries and Treasurers.

Whilst on the subject of CRB checks, if you need anybody cleared for camps or other activities, the forms need to be completed ASAP as the Initial Checks are taking over a month to come back from the Enquiry Office at Gilwell and the final CRB check takes at least as long again.

John Reed

Prances News

An interesting start to the camping season with some very mixed weather. We have seen camps in heavy rain, winter snow and summer sun, all in the space of 7 weeks.

It's a credit to the groups to see that whatever the weather throws at them the camps continue and there seems no reduced enjoyment from any of the youngsters involved.



We have even seen the Peter Church Lodge full of dome tents being used as an improvised camp site when the weather got really bad but again everyone seemed more than happy.

The new toilet block has been very well received and all of the groups who have used this new facility have been really impressed

and comment on the benefits it adds to the site. A warm environment, plenty of hot water and a utility room with additional washing facilities, fridge and freezer add to the services available.



We are now working on completing the ground works around this new area and push ahead with other site improvements.

We are delighted to be hosting the David Clare Competition being run by the Essex County Scout Archery Team on 8th June 2008. The event is open to Scouts, Explorers, Network and Adult Leaders. The main field will be used as the archery range and it will give you all a great opportunity to try different sized targets at various distances. For more details contact ESCAT - Vicky Spooner on 07710 451114 or e-mail vspooner@relfm.com

Please keep your eyes open for more details of the Cub Scouts Funday being held at Prances on 19th July 2008. Add the date to your diaries for what promises to be a great event.

We look forward to seeing all of the Explorer's at the information evening being held at Prances on Thursday 12th June 2008.

Please remember we have activities available that can be used as a programme evening. Why not enjoy the good weather and come up for an activity such as climbing on the new tower, archery, rifles etc.

You could finish the evening around a camp fire with a BBQ.

If you have any questions or need any assistance please do not hesitate to give us a call and we will be delighted to assist.

I would like to thank all of the campers who have stayed on the site. The offers of breakfast

or a bacon roll have been much appreciated. It has been like the Vicar of Dibley Christmas meal sketch, moving from meal to meal!. On the basis I never say "No" I am now developing the condition known as "Wardens Belly" . If you see me running around the field I have not gone mad, just trying to run it off!

Andrew and Sara Goodwin.

Site Wardens

Prances Camp Site

In the Swim with Silver End Scouts

On Saturday 10th May, a week after crawling around underground in caves, Silver End Scouts again went below the surface but this time Scuba Diving. Thirty One Scouts (just over half), spent the evening at the new pool in Braintree.



Split into 4 groups they either watched their fellow Scouts, snorkelled or Scuba dived. For all of them it was the first time trying the experience – which doesn't come natural. When you are submerged a few metres underwater you want to hold your breath not breathe normally! Some found it harder than others but all had a brilliant time.

As with everything in Silver End Scouting, taking part in a new experience and trying your best is what it all about. How many of their school friends can say they spent Saturday night underwater scuba diving instead just sitting in front of a games console?

After being underground at the Nuclear Bunker, Caving, and Scuba Diving the Troops next activities are all above ground with a 'Hike with a difference – Jailbreak' and Horse Riding.

Congratulations to Phil Kilburn who has taken on the task as ADC Cubs.....

Cub Leaders please contact Phil direct for any Cub Scouting News on 01621 779020 or email him on phil@maxwebster.me.uk

Only a few more ADC's to go folks!

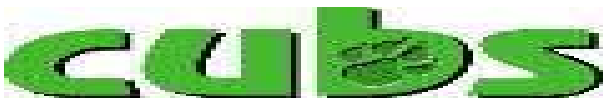
If you are interested in helping the District improve the facilities and care for the young members please offer your help to the DC. Ed.

Directory Amendments:

Ann Dukes 27 Tideswell Close, Braintree CM7 9FR
Tel 01376 569367 email anndukes@talktalk.net.

GSL's

Any other amendments to your leadership team please let me know. Ed



Attention all Cub Leaders---

Dear GSL's, CSL's and ACSL's,

We are holding a CUB FUN DAY on Saturday July 19th, to be held at Prances between 10am and 6pm.

The days activities will includes suction cross bows, abseiling, assault course, archery, dough twists, building a space station, crafts and many more.

The days activities will end with a water fight followed by a camp fire and barbeque.

The cubs will work in teams of 4/5 to complete as many activities and thus gain as many points as possible towards a prize at the end.

In order to make this a memorable day for your cubs we need you to promote the event and bring along your pack to enjoy the fun.

To assist with catering arrangements for the BBQ **please would you either**

telephone or email Prances to secure your places by MAY 23rd .*

The cost of the day will be £5 per cub to include activities, prizes and BBQ, **payable at the District AGM on July 2nd**. (each person will need their own packed lunch)

All helpers are invited to stay behind and relax with cheese and wine around the camp fire .

More detailed information will be sent to pack leaders who book their places.

We look forward to seeing you all on the 19th July.

The organising gang....

Phyl Rixon, Andrew Goodwin, Rod Sandys, Margaret Pritchard, Phil Kilburn and Tricia Harris.

Prances : 01621 892876

prancescout@btinternet.com

CONGRATULATIONS TO :

Left to Right are; **Aaron Child & Jordan Dorrell of 1st Maldon Kestrels. CSA Silver Awards**

Callum Harvison of Silver End Scout Troop and Lewis Goodwin of 1st Beacon Hill (now Heybridge) CSA Gold Award.

These four lads were the only recipients who attended the award presentations from our District.



A Report of his personal achievement.....

My Chief Scouts Gold Award.

I joined Beavers when I was 6 years old. I joined at 1st Beacon Hill. After Beavers I joined cubs as soon as I was old enough. I did lots of badge work in Cubs and I managed to get my Chief Scout Silver Award. This was presented to me at the Colne Valley Railway on 28th March 2004.



After Cubs I joined Scouts and for the last two years I have been working on my Chief Scout Gold Award. I had to complete five challenges.

I completed the following to get my GOLD AWARD:

- adventure challenge
- fitness challenge
- creative challenge
- community challenge
- outdoor plus challenge

For my GOLD AWARD presentation I was invited to Ingatestone Hall.

We arrived at 11.15am and had to register at the right group.

I then went and played on some stalls at the penny fair. We then had lunch on the lawn. We then walked around Ingatestone Hall and the shop.

At 2.15pm I was presented with the CHIEF SCOUT GOLD AWARD by Bob Bye the Essex Scout County Commissioner and Lord Petre, President of Essex Scouting and Lord Lieutenant of Essex.

Lord Petre lives at Ingatestone Hall. One room of his house is bigger than my whole house.

I then had my photograph taken with other Scouts from our District.

It was so hot you would sweat buckets standing in the sun in full uniform, so we finished the day with an ice cream.

I am now moving to Explorers at 1st Heybridge and I hope I will be able to do the top award in this section as well.

By Lewis Goodwin.

At the awards ceremony in the afternoon, Ian Valentine received his certificate for the Silver Acorn; Christine Child ACSL of 1st Maldon received a certificate for her Wood Badge; Cliff Hunter GSL on behalf of 1st Maldon received a Certificate for 108.2% . Growth

Southminster & Maylandsea also had a mention for a growth certificate but unfortunately no one was present to receive it.

The District as a whole had a mention of 3.5% growth but the DC was not present to receive the certificate on behalf of the Groups within the District.

MALDON & EAST ESSEX DISTRICT EXPLORERS

An information evening is being held on a number of activities that people in the District would like to provide for the Explorers Scouts.

You are invited to a Presentation about them

Date :- Thursday 12th June

Location :- Prances

Time :- 19:30

Please try and make sure that your unit is represented

- if not you could miss out!

SAILING REGATTA

CAMPSITE SERVICE

INTERNATIONAL

TRIP

Have you ever wanted to take to the water and take part in a sailing event? Then this could be just the activity for you. Come along and find out where, when, and the cost. Places will be limited to just 12

You may of enjoyed a camp or activity at Prances? Have you ever wanted to be 'on the other side'? Now you can help on the Team.

It won't be all work and no play though...

Interested? Come listen to Andrew.

Missed out on Poland or enjoyed it that you want more travelling?

Come listen to Dan on what is planned - places will be limited.

Cheesy Caving

Over the Mayday bank holiday, Scouts from Silver End travelled the long distance to Somerset for an underground adventure. Staying in a hut at the foot of the Mendip hills for 4 days the Scouts and Leaders had a fun filled few days.



Arriving late on Friday night (after fighting their way through all the caravans heading the same direction) the girls and boys sorted out their mattresses as it was just one big room and 'floor for the night', while the leaders had separate rooms. Before settling down there was just time to watch a film, but not many saw the end as was nearly 1am when it finished!



Saturday was an early start with the Scouts getting up at 7am. While one group cleared the hall, the other prepared breakfast before setting off to Cheddar Gorge for Caving and walking. One group went a few hundred metres underground while the others took part in the cliff top walk and going up Jacobs's ladder to see over the whole valley. After lunch (which the Scouts prepared before leaving in the morning), the groups swapped over. Once back at the hut, after dinner, there was time for a few 'Patrol Competitions', followed by cooking marshmallows round the camp fire. The Scouts didn't need any encouragement to go to bed that night as all were completely shattered from the day's activities.



Sunday was a bit more leisurely. They returned to the Gorge to do the 'Tourist Thing'. An audio guide round Gough Caves (where one of the staff commented on how well behaved the young people were and one of the nicest groups that they have had in the caves), was followed by an open top bus tour of the gorge.



A few museums were visited before moving on to Cox Caves. There was then free time to go look round the shops or go and see how Cheddar Cheese is made. There was also a shop where you could taste all the different types of cheeses made by the Cheddar Gorge Cheese Company. Once back to the hut there was more 'Patrol Competition', a campfire and video before bed.

Monday wasn't just a case of pack up and go home, as en route they stopped at a leisure pool to play on the flumes, rapids and wave machine. At least that way they returned washed and clean after an excellent weekend of fun, friendship and adventure.

PLEASE NOTE:=-

Timing for the Cub Fun Day event I understand is 10.00 till 18.00hrs

MALDON AND EAST ESSEX SCOUT FELLOWSHIP "THE WOGGLE CLUB"

The members of the Woggle Club are organising a camp fire, the details are given below.

This will be open to all members of the District, and you will need to book in advance for catering numbers.

Please return the slip no later than June 8th 2008, and enclose payment with the booking form.

In the "unlikely" event of bad weather, this activity will be moved into the hall.

Camp fire.

Prances camp site, Wickham Bishops. Thursday June 19th 2008.

6~30pm till 8.30pm

£ 1. 50p per head. This includes camp site fee and

Refreshments, (soup and hot dogs).

Numbers and payment: Cheques made payable to "The Woggle Club". Bookings: Send to Mrs C Baker, 91, Nipsells Chase, Mayland, CM36EJ. 01621 740888.

Without news arriving through my inbox....I can only assume that there is nothing going on and would like to hear from **other** groups.....no stories? How about complaints....? I await with baited breath for entries for the next issue....closing date July 12th 2008 Ed.

Rounders Challenge

Match

Saturday 21st June 2008 Start time 14.00 hrs

1st Maldon Headquarters, Brickhouse Farm,
Poulton Close, Maldon

Competitively priced Bar B Q served at 18.00 hrs
Light refreshments served all afternoon.

Entry fees £1 per Rounders Player.

We very much look forward to receiving your
teams details- indicative numbers would be
really helpful for catering arrangements.

Final numbers must be in by the 14th June.

R.S.V.P. Keith Gower
keithgower@googlemail.com

Or to Cliff Hunter
cliff.hunter1942@btinternet.com

Leaders please note that Erik Trawny is the
District awards co-ordinator and all Chief
Scouts Awards and D of E Awards must be
notified to Erik.

The next award day for the County is on 12th
October 2008 at Tilbury Fort.

Erik Trawny, 22 Sherwood Way, Feering,
Colchester. CO5 9LJ or email
erik.trawny@btinternet.com

First Response

Anybody holding a current FR certificate
should be aware that they last for three years.
If any adult or Young Leader is coming up for
renewal then they need to contact Rodney
Sandys 01621 815748 or email
r.sandys@homecall.co.uk and arrange an
appropriate time and place for a course. The
renewal normally take approx. 2 hours to
complete and costs £7.

Maldon and East Essex District

Cub Scout



FUN DAY

Saturday July 19th

Prances Campsite, Wickham Bishops

☆Abseiling ☆Archery ☆Cork

Guns ☆Crafts Activity

☆Games

☆..Plus a load more!

£ 5.00

Per Person

A whole day of fun activities for *all* Cub Scouts
from the Maldon and East Essex District

FOR MORE INFO

Contact PRANCES 01621 892876

prancescout@btinternet.com



Explorer Scouts (Young Leaders)

All Explorer Scouts who are wishing to work as
Young Leaders with younger sections are required
to take modular training of which the first and most
important is Module A - *Prepare for take off*. The
module is compulsory because the key areas cover
all necessary information in order to interact with
young people and understand the reasons behind
the fundamentals of Scouting. The course is two
hours long and usually done in an evening. You
will gain an achievement certificate and a YL
badge to wear on your Explorer shirt.

Module K - *First aid masterclass* can be completed
as an external course *First Response* of which
several are run throughout the year. This is 6 hours
long, costs £10, run on a Sunday and resultant
certificate lasts for 3 years.

All other modules can be arranged as necessary and
can be done as part of an Explorer evening.

Any young person who requires this training
should get in touch with Rodney Sandys 01621
815748 or email r.sandys@homecall.co.uk and
we will arrange an appropriate time and place for
the course.

Stay Safe...

with your gas...

Scout Insurance Services Ltd monitors every ~
accident notification made under Association
rules. One of the reasons for this is to identify
patterns or trends in order to inform and advise
the Movement.



Over the last few years, there have been a number of serious incidents involving the use of gas cookers and lanterns which employ pierceable cartridges.

Equipment of this type often referred to as 'Bluet' were amongst the earliest examples of personal, lightweight cookers and lanterns. As such, much of this equipment held by Groups may be over thirty years old.

Over the last ten years or so, the old pierceable cartridge has been superseded by lightweight aluminium cartridges which incorporate a screw or clip valve fitting. These can be fitted and removed repeatedly, with a minimal risk of the escape of gas.

The old type of cartridge was, as its name suggests, pierced by a spike in the appliance. Once pierced, the canister could not safely be removed until empty.

The main risks with this older type equipment are age, lack of familiarity and misuse. Examples are:-

- extracting a 'spent' cartridge and attempting to 'screw' in a replacement without removing the burner assembly.
- Screwing in a burner assembly 'cross threaded' which pierces the cartridge without being able to screw right down to form a seal.
- Equipment which is old and in which the rubber seal has become damaged or perished, preventing a good, gas tight, seal.

In all these cases, leaking gas can be the result and, due the lack of a valve, the leak cannot be stopped.

The results, in a number of Scout cases, have been serious burn injuries to users and those nearby. In France, as a direct result of repeated serious injuries, attempts are being made to prohibit the manufacture of pierceable cartridges.

For these reasons, The Scout Association is taking the unusual step in strongly advising Groups to cease using equipment which employs pierceable cartridges;

It is appreciated that such advice will require Groups to replace older equipment and that this has cost implications. However, the evidence of risk is overwhelming.

It is accepted that equipment cannot be replaced overnight and that some of this type may have to be used in the short term. Where this cannot be avoided, Leaders are advised to check, carefully, to ensure that seals are in good condition and should record the inspection. In addition, use of such equipment should be closely supervised and, above all, cartridge changes and assembly should only be undertaken by adults, in the open and away from sources of ignition.

All cooking and lighting equipment utilising flammable gases or liquids are potentially dangerous but, with care, can be used safely. However, pierceable cartridge equipment has been shown to present unique hazards, not only within Scouting but within the general public as well.

Groups are recommended to cease using such equipment and to implement a policy of replacement within twelve months at the latest. Scout Shops Ltd
