

5 to 25

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BEXLEY COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY YOUTH ORGANISATIONS LTD

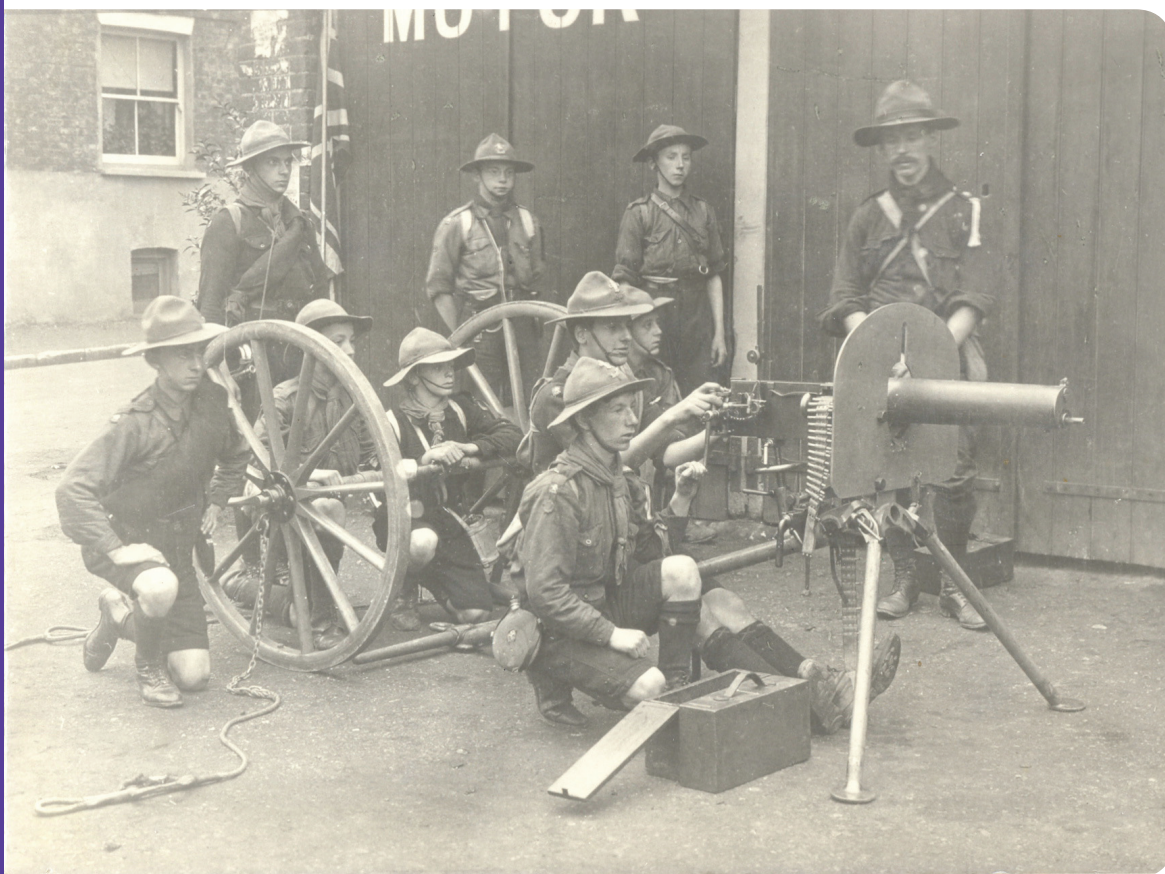
APRIL 2007

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The articles and views expressed in this publication may not be those expressed by the Editor nor the Council.

Every effort is made to acknowledge sources and relies on the contributions of the members and readers.

SCOUTING IN BEXLEY CELEBRATING THE FIRST 100 YEARS



Right:
4th Erith Scouts
protecting a
first world war
machine gun

Courtesy of Bexley
Local Studies and
Archive Centre

You are invited to visit an Exhibition of Scouting Memorabilia
at The Austen Gallery, Hall Place, Bourne Road, Bexley
13th May to 15th July 2007



Membership of the BCVYO Ltd is afforded to the actual leaders of groups within the London Borough of Bexley and they are entitled to vote at the AGM, although anyone with interest in the BCVYO Ltd can stand as a trustee.

BOB'S BIT

Greetings to you all. Let's hope the weather stays good for the many events and camps coming up. I must start by congratulating our Chairman, Fred Vidler, who has been awarded the Silver Acorn for his many years of dedicated scouting service. Fred and his wife Iris, who we must thank for the Wordsearch, are off to Windsor on St Georges Day to hopefully meet the Queen. Well done Fred. (Iris deserves one too!)

Many others have gained awards across the groups we deal with, so many to mention but one other I

must. Dulcie Austin-Smith, who gets the Bexley Civic Award for her work she has done in Bexley for the Guides. I'm too shy to tell you I have been awarded a Medal as well, so I won't.

I would also like to say that I am celebrating ten years as administrator of the BCVYO this July - ten years! I have been privileged to deal with nearly one million pounds on behalf of the Council and we believe the grant for the coming financial year has been approved too. Full details will be sent to leaders and we ask that you return the forms as

soon as possible. As ever we reiterate that we only have a certain amount of money to distribute and calculate it so that nothing is left at the end of the year. Because of that we must remind those who leave it to the last minute that there may well be nothing left in the kitty in the last week of the year, so some of you missed out.

Full details of how we operate can be seen and discussed at the AGM on 12th June.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

- **ScoutFest100** | 20th May 2007, 11:00am-4:00pm

A centenary festival at Welling Football Club celebrating 100 years of scouting in Bexley.

- **BCVYO Ltd AGM** | Tuesday 12th June 2007, 7:45pm | Maxim Rd Crayford

There will be two speakers after the business of the AGM. One talking about Bexley Arts Council and a second from Youth Active, the heartbeat of youth sport. Both will give ideas of how to engage young people with their projects.

- **Civic Parade** | 24th June 2007

The voluntary sectors chance to show off to the new Mayor of Bexley. Morning parade and service, followed by drinks with the Mayor.

G@P TV

A COLLECTIVE ACCOUNT BY SEVERAL GUIDERS

Erith & Crayford Division traditionally hold an indoor weekend away for the Guides every other year. The weekend was always known as PIPS, a relic from when the guides worked on Patrol Interest Pennants. They went out with the new programme in 2001 but the PIPS tradition continued with Patrols in Paxwood.

We decided on a complete change for 2007 - out went PIPs and in came GAP - Guides at Paxwood, and when we decided to base the weekend on communication and media it was quickly renamed G@P. All nine units from the five districts in the division asked for places and G@P TV was born. Taking over both house and hall at Paxwood, 43 Guides and 20 Leaders participated in the weekend. It was a wonderful opportunity for all the Leaders to get to know each other too and no training or team building exercise could have had better results.

We spent Friday night doing some ice-breaking games before the girls formed into the groups. Each group was a television company and they had to make a series of programmes. This was achieved by rotating through activities in turn.

Each group's first activity was then turned into a television programme to be performed the next day. A guide's father who owns a computer repair shop lent us some PCs so that the guides could play and review computer games but the icing on the cake was when Bexley Council offered us, totally out of the blue, some money to buy a camcorder and camera. What superb timing. The

girls had such fun with these too. I wonder how many 10-14 year old girls have been given a video camera and told to go off and make a wildlife documentary and then be able to play it back and see themselves on television.

We made cakes for the G@P TV Food Channel, designed an advert complete with jingle, took photos for G@P Camera Action and printed them out, played sports on G@P Sports TV and had our very own G@P Idol competition with the karaoke machine.

On Sunday morning we played a brilliant wide game, in which the girls were various parts of a computer. They started by coding up a message which was then passed in turn to firewalls, routers, networkers and other computers. Each girl knew only her task and if everyone completed these correctly, at the end of the game each computer ended up with a readable message. Some worked, some didn't but it certainly gave the guides an insight into how computers function.

It was a lovely weekend. The girls were friendly and wrote some beautiful messages on our message board which almost made up for the fact that they'd kept us all awake with their talking on Friday night. For the record, we got our own back with the 7am fire drill the next day so all was equal in the end.

The weather was warm and sunny and it didn't rain once. All in all, a perfect weekend. So what shall we do in 2009?

ODDIE NIGHT

The 3rd Barnehurst Rainbows have been doing some fundraising this term for one of our Guiders in the District, Lucy Haslam, who is running for the Little Miss and Mr Men team in the Flora London Marathon in aid of children with leukemia and have also held an 'Oddie Night'.



For those of you who don't already know, when you put your socks in the washing machine and one goes missing, it has gone off beyond the bubbles and the magic swirl to Oddieworld to become the character whose toes were inside of it and they get up to all sorts of adventures.

On our fundraising night, the girls came along wearing

odd socks and then made a donation. We had lots of games and activities lined up for the girls, all to do with socks, so it turned out a fun night as well as raising money for a worthy cause!

Check out the website, it's great fun!

www.oddieworld.com

Judith Fairbairn
(Raindrop)

CADET OF THE YEAR 2007

Alice Barrett, a Cadet from Bexley, was named the St. John Ambulance National Cadet of the Year 2007.

43 Cadets from across the UK competed in the Cadet of the Year competition in Nottingham. The annual competition comprises interviews, team games and training sessions to help the panel of assessors choose the next young face of St. John Ambulance. As Cadet of the Year, Alice will act as an ambassador for the organisation. Representing 12,000 Cadets, she will attend a range of public events including charity

balls, award ceremonies and competitions.

"I feel so proud to be the new National Cadet of the Year - I have never cried of happiness before, until today" said Alice. "The weekend has been amazing, not only because of winning this title but I have also come away with 42 new friends."

This year's competition was close. Three Deputy Cadets of the Year were appointed instead of the usual two: Benjamin Gray, from West Midlands, Matthew Todd, from Durham and Claire Knighton, from

Somerset. Sarah Holmes, Chief Commissioner Youth, comments: "At a time when young people are considered a nuisance to society, our Cadets have once again shown this weekend what an outstanding credit they are to the organisation, their families and the local community. It is a great achievement to be nominated to take part in this competition, let alone win it. Alice demonstrated tremendous dedication and enthusiasm over the course of the competition and we are delighted that she is our National Cadet of the Year 2007."



FIRE SAFETY PROJECT FOR BEXLEY RESIDENTS

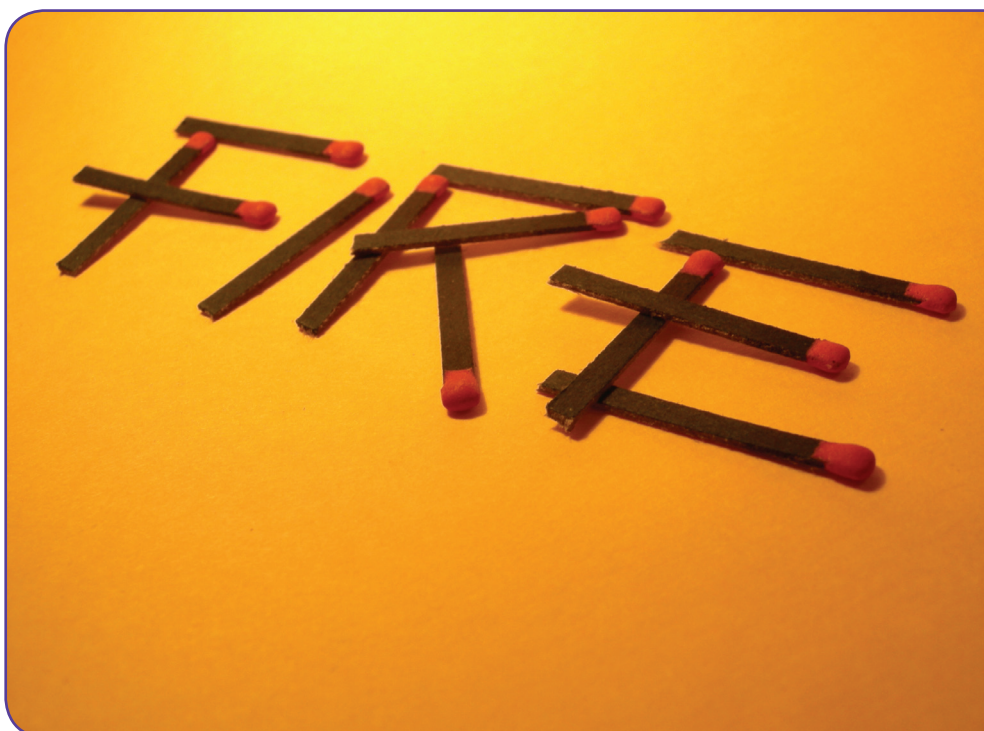
As part of a new fire safety project, the London Fire Brigade have appointed a Fire Community Safety Officer (FCSO) to Bexley. The project aims to promote fire safety and improve awareness of the many services provided by the fire brigade to local people and community organisations.

FCSO Divya Patel, who'll be working locally on the project, said "It's important that everyone is made aware of how to prevent fires from happening, how to install working smoke alarms, and what to do if a smoke alarm goes off. Simply getting a smoke alarm, testing it regularly and having an agreed escape plan could make the difference between life and death."

"The first thing I'll be advising local people to do is get a free home fire safety visit. Fire-fighters will visit your home, talk about fire risks and fit free smoke alarms if you need them."

If you would like a visit to one of your groups ring the freephone number 08000 28 44 28 quoting 'Bexley 01', or feel free to contact Divya directly on 07919 014322.

divya.patel@london-fire.gov.uk



LET'S TALK WET...

One of the great things about living in Bexley is water, not just to drink but to have fun on and in. Not only do we have the Thames, but two great lakes (Danson and Southmere) to sail, canoe and wind surf on. Not many other boroughs can boast that. Thamesmead YMCA, based at Southmere



Lake, has been active for 50 years teaching young people how to sail. Scores of Scouts, Guides and Sea Cadets have earned their sailing badges with the help of this experienced team. But it's not only young people they teach, many leaders and parents have also learnt and discovered skills they didn't previously know they had.

The Principal is George Reynolds O.B.E. whose attitude to teaching sailing is quite simple - get the kids on the water as soon and as long as possible. There is only so much theory you can teach in a classroom or from a book. Most sailing skills come from experience. In order to be awarded The RYA Log Book a young person must not only display basic sailing skills and knowledge, they must also capsize and know how to recover. In hot weather, as you can imagine, this is great fun.

Most young people learn something about themselves here; Not to panic in a crisis and do as you are taught in order to recover. Many discover a self confidence in themselves for the first time. Although sailing requires more theory than canoeing (in my opinion.) Young people do not have to be brainiacs in order to sail, indeed many young sailors discover this about themselves.

The Thamesmead YMCA dinghy fleet consists of

over 50 boats, which are supported by five safety boats. They have 120 EEC Life jackets and 120 spray suits to suit all ages and sizes. Something else Thamesmead YMCA has to offer young sailors is the relationship it has built up over years with Erith Yacht Club. Competent young sailors are invited to the club to experience sailing in bigger dinghies on the tidal Thames and get the opportunity to progress further in their sailing skills.

Thamesmead YMCA's boathouse is next door to The cAve climbing wall in Harrow Manor Way. Maybe you would like to organize a Thamesmead day during the year, with sailing in the morning, packed lunch overlooking the lake and climbing in the afternoon. The people to contact are:

George Reynolds O.B.E.
Thamesmead YMCA
0208 302 5783

Ann Beard
The cAve climbing wall
020 8320 4470

WIK // FINLAND

by Sue Morton. *(Unfortunately I had problems downloading the photos so maybe next time ...Ed)*

Goodbye England, Hello Helsinki. After an overnight stop in a luxury hotel we joined up with Guides from The West Midlands and Wales for the two and a half hour coach drive to Dragsfjard.

On arrival at WIK camp we found our bags in a ditch! We dragged up a magic hill to our site 'Holmgard' (this was a magic hill that increased in height each time we walked it!) where our hosts had provided three tents minus tent pegs. These had to be made from wood in the forest, so tents were placed in some very dodgy ground and tied to trees.

Each morning we were roused from sleep to bugles, horns, saucepans, whistles or oggies! I have to say we were speechless as children aged 7 upwards were being allowed to run around with axes, saws, knives - climbing up trees and hanging from branches. However there were many activities for the girls to take part in. Making bird boxes and dolls for Unicef, archery (albeit with blank arrows made from sticks,) making jewellery, survival skills and sea activities including swimming.

At the hugh campfire the girls stole the show with their sketch 'if I weren't a girl guide'. We swopped badges with other International Scouts and Guides and

even visited a 19th century school. At night TAPS was played all over the camp by a bugle. This became one of my most memorable moments.

Each morning and evening we marched down to the beach for the flag ceremony. Here we sat and watched the sunset, and rise! Our WIK adventure was certainly that, an adventure. We were all challenged in various ways. No amount of 'being prepared' could have warned us of the limits we were all pushed to with this camp, but the girls did brilliantly, made new friends and bonded as a group. They came home a true Finland Svenska Scout.



The last issue's
Wordsearch winner is:

EMILY JANE HIRST

from the 4th Watling Brownies.
Congratulations, a cheque for £20
is on its way to your Brownie Pack.

WORDSEARCH COMPETITION

A prize of £20 will be awarded for the first correct entry drawn out of the hat. All you have to do is find and mark each of the words shown below, then return this page with

your name, address and the name of the voluntary youth organisation of your choice. There's no limit to the number of entries from an organisation, so why not let all of your

members have a go? The deadline for returning completed entries is 1st August 2007. The winner will be announced in the next issue of '5 to 25'. Have a nice Easter!

B	I	H	O	T	C	R	O	S	S	B	U	N	S	C
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F	C	W	D	T	A	E	H	W	E	L	O	H	W	K

All these words are to do with baking!

HOT CROSS BUNS • BREAD • FRUIT BANNOCK • BUNS • CRUST • GRANARY
 FRENCH STICK • SCONES • WHOLEWHEAT • BROWN • WHITE • WHEAT • RYE
 SODA BREAD • FRUIT LOAF • FLOUR • CRUMPET • ROLLS • TEACAKE • COB
 WHOLEMEAL • COTTAGE LOAF • DOUGH • RAISIN • DOUGHNUT • SPICED
 PASTRY • DATE LOAF • SAUSAGE ROLL • TIN • WELSH CAKES • ICE BUNS

Name:

Address:

Youth Organisation:

