

BCVYO Ltd

PO Box 452
Sidcup, Kent

T | 020 8855 9496
bcvyo@hotmail.com
www.bcvyo.org.uk

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BEXLEY COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY YOUTH ORGANISATIONS LTD

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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.

BB CELEBRATES 125!



William Smith,
founder of The
Boys' Brigade

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.



Design:
nchapman80@gmail.com

BOB'S BIT

Two weeks ago I didn't have any articles to put into this newsletter and suddenly I have another bumper issue! After last year's celebrations for the Scouts, we now have the 125th anniversary of the Boys' Brigade. Congratulations to all of them. Information about the BB is inside.

It is also that time of year when the grants are made available again, so will all concerned please take the time to return your forms and claim some money.

I have been asked to mention that some of you, who have had a great deal of funding over the years, have never attended any of our AGMs. Perhaps this year you could support us by coming along and have a stand to advertise your group or club!

Likewise the Civic Parade is looking for your groups to attend – marching up the Broadway in front of hundreds of people is good fun! Enjoy the issue.

Bob Chapman.

GIRLS PUT ON SPARKLING CHARITY PERFORMANCE

A **SPARKLING** show raised a bumper amount of cash for charity and for the Barnehurst District Guide Association. Everyone from the youngest Rainbow to the oldest Ranger belonging to the district, took part in the Sparkly Stars Extravaganza! After several weeks of rehearsals, the girls gave three performances in St Martin's Church Hall,

Erith Road, Barnehurst, which featured poems, plays, songs and dance routines. Adult leaders and members of the Trefoil Guild provided a tombola and refreshments and made after-show collections to boost the fundraising. The event raised £1,160 for district funds and another £364 for the Dartford based Ellenor Hospice.

Congratulations to

BETHANY YOUNGS

and 8th Welling Brownies for winning last month's wordsearch competition!

This is the second time in a row that they have won so yet another £20 goes to thier pack!



BOYS' BRIGADE CELEBRATES 125 YEARS

The Boys' Brigade was founded in 1883 by Sir William Smith, with the first company in Glasgow. Now a worldwide organisation, the BB is Britain's largest Christian uniformed youth organisation working with 70,000 members aged 5 to 18, in 1600 churches throughout the country. During the past 125 years the BB has adapted to meet the needs of today, whilst maintaining its core values. It provides an exciting and challenging programme, underpinned by the Christian faith, assisting members to reach their full potential,

develop a sense of responsibility and become active part of the community.

There are six BB companies in Bexley. They are the 6th, 7th, 14th, 16th and 18th West Kent and the 12th Bromley who all have active memberships. Most BB companies have three sections: Anchor Boys aged 5-7, Juniors aged 8-10 and the Company Sections aged 11 to 18. Some companies welcome girls as associate members. Further details can be obtained from the BCVYO office.



CELEBRATION DAY

Saturday 31st May 2008, 11am to 5pm
The Historic Dockyard, Chatham

Celebrating the 125th Anniversary of the Boys' Brigade, this special day, organised by the Steadfast Association London (itself celebrating 25 years) at The Historic Dockyard in Chatham will be a great fun day out for all the family, whether they are linked to the organisation or not. There will be nine bands performing including marching bands of both traditional and drum corps style, static brass bands and pipes and drums, from Kent, London, Cambridgeshire, Essex and as far away as Dublin. Gym displays, squad drill demonstrations, junior team games, figure marching, children's entertainment

and face painting all add to the activities to watch or take part in. There'll be special facilities for 'Old Boys' to meet and reminisce about their time in the Boys' Brigade and information stands promoting the activities of local companies, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme and the Kent Fire & Rescue Service. The day culminates with a Tattoo and Beat Retreat with what could be over 500 musicians performing the traditional end of day ceremony. Add to this all the galleries and attractions of the Historic Dockyard (open from 10am) and it will be a great day out for families and groups, especially youth groups.

For more details visit www.londonsteadfastassociation.org

BEAVERS VISIT MAYOR

Beaver Scouts from 3rd Sidcup Scout Group accompanied by the Minister Mike Williams, recently paid a visit to the Mayor's Parlor at the Civic Centre, Bexleyheath. The current Mayor of Bexley, Cllr Nigel Betts, met the colony. For the first part of the evening the Beavers discovered the mayoral duties of the Mace Bearer (Steve) and the official driver (Paul). The Mayor went on to talk about his public duties within Bexley when representing the borough. The young people were very interested in seeing various things on display.

Ian Dunn.



SWIMMING GALA

Last held in 2004 and quite poorly supported, we thought we'd go for it again but at a different pool and a different time of year. March is supposed to be warmer than November too so why was it freezing and wet? Seven units and an 8 lane pool meant that all races were run as finals, with no heats to worry about and as the pool is shorter than the old one used to be the races were over very quickly. This had the added advantage that there weren't long gaps between each race and there was a good buzzy atmosphere from start to finish.

Having made the decision not to sell programmes as parents never stay and watch Guide galas we then had the biggest number of spectators that we have even seen! We tried to cater for everyone and I think we succeeded, with both length and width races and also a novelty race for non swimmers. Afterwards, all those with 1st, 2nd and 3rd placings received a certificate from Barbara Merriman our Division President and every girl who took part

also received a souvenir medal. Then came the fun part of the evening as all the girls (and some of the Leaders) were able to go back in the water for a free swimming session which they greatly enjoyed. 4th Erith won and are now the proud holders of the winner's shield which we have been using for our Guide galas for over 30 years.

Congratulations are due to all the girls and units that took part for making it such an enjoyable evening. Thanks also to all the people who helped on the night, we couldn't have done it without you, especially the Rainbow and Brownie Leaders who gave up their evening to help us. I can really recommend Crook Log Leisure Centre for an event like this. The car park has plenty of room, There is a good viewing area for spectators, the centre staff are excellent and nothing we asked for was too much trouble. All these things put together helped to ensure that we had a very successful evening.

Jan Hailstone.

BARNEHURST BADGE DAY

At the beginning of March, Barnehurst District held a district badge weekend at Paxwood in Wilmington. In previous years we have held a badge day just for Brownies but this year we decided to make a weekend of it and involve everyone! Following months of planning, the weekend was finally off to a start, with 88 Brownies arriving on the Saturday morning. The aim of the day was for each girl to attend four different sessions and complete remaining tasks to gain four interest badges by the time they went home. The Brownie day was enjoyed by all and included a shared lunch, time to play with the parachute, completing the assault course and of course a traditional Brownie sing song.

After saying goodbye to the Brownies, those of us daft enough to be staying overnight had approximately an hour in which to tidy up and prepare for the arrival of the Guides! 36 Guides arrived for a sleepover and during the evening completed many challenges and activities allowing them to complete the Go For It Blast from the Past and the Traditions of Guiding badge. Being a Brownie Guider I was not used to the fact that Guides get to stay up so late and was ready for my bed far earlier than the girls! Eventually we all got to bed but it felt as if no sooner had we gone to sleep we were up again getting ready for day two!

Sunday saw the arrival of more Guides and 38 Rainbows. The Guides spent the day completing their Confectioner, Science, Agility and Outdoor Cook badges. To gain the badges the Guides had to complete many tasks such as sweet making, launching rockets and hot air balloons that they had made and of course cooking their own two course lunch outside!

The Rainbows also had a fabulous time completing a coloured roundabout on which they had to collect a sticker every time they completed an activity. Their activities included food tasting, planting seeds, learning how to wash their hands properly, crafts, skipping, learning about their senses and many more.

By 4pm on Sunday 168 girls from Barnehurst had returned home having worked extremely hard to gain their badges, and also having had lots of fun. As for the Guiders we too returned home having had an enjoyable time but also in need of a well earned rest!

Kristian Saunders, District Commissioner,
Barnehurst District Guides.

EASTER ACTIVITY DAY

Crayford District Guides had a fun Easter Activity Day on Saturday, 15th March at St. Mary's Church Hall. The event was funded by grant money received by the 3rd Crayford Brownie Pack from Capital Community Foundation Local Network Fund for Children and Young People. There were crafts including making cards, Easter crowns, shredded wheat cakes, marzipan chicks and pecking hens. Obviously there had been testing of the chocolate shredded wheat cakes as there were quite a few sticky smiling faces at home

time! We had a short break for a drink and fruit snack. The highlight of the afternoon was a visit from 'Jo Jingles'. The girls enjoyed singing, playing musical instruments and musical games. There was also a game with parachutes and plastic balls which the girls took great delight in shooting up into the air, so all the Guiders had to keep picking them up. At the end of the afternoon everyone left with an Easter Egg and the things they had made, but most of all a lot of fun memories of time spent with their Guiding friends.



GLK GIANT SLEEPOVER 2008

The idea of staging an attempt on the world record for the largest ever sleepover/pyjama party was conceived in the middle of 2007. When letters were sent out to Leaders, Guides and Brownies there was an overwhelming response – almost 2,200 people applied for the 1,500 available places. An extra 200 places were made available.

Planning and organisation was carried out by a hard working committee of seven volunteers, each with different areas of responsibility. Meetings were held with the Management Committee of The Glades Shopping Centre, who were very supportive of our record-breaking attempt, and agreed to fund the production of souvenir badges. People of standing in the community were sought out as adjudicators, and the Mayors of the London Boroughs of Bromley and Bexley were invited to visit the Sleepover. The Disney Store donated 2,000 colourful little carrier bags which were used as the 'goody bags' containing souvenir gifts and a breakfast snack. Waterstones donated balloons and bookmarks to go in these bags. A huge thank you to both.

A major part of the evidence of authenticity was the sign-in sheets: all participants had to sign in on arrival at The Glades and sign out on departure. The event was to run from 7pm on the Saturday, when the first coaches were due to arrive, until 7.15am on the Sunday. Timing was tight due to the shopping centre not closing until 6pm and opening for business again at 10am the following day. We managed to get everyone in and out within this timescale, while ensuring that everyone was there for the 12 hour duration of the party.

The girls really enjoyed the three entertainers who worked their way along the shopping malls: a clown, a magician/balloon animal creator, and a monocyclist. A puzzle sheet was also given to every participant, with a variety of puzzles and games to suit all ages. The girls brought snacks with them, and party food was distributed to all participants during the evening. Units also brought along their own games and entertainment, there was singing and dancing, twister and garden games as well as girls making various crafts etc. Local councillors



RECORD BREAKING PROMISE

The sleepover event was exciting enough for everyone but for two lucky Brownies from the 4th Welling (Methodist) Brownie pack it was even more special because they took their promise in the presence of the Deputy Mayor of Bexley and his wife. Having walked around the entire circuit of The Glades the Deputy Mayor was then kind enough to agree to

witness Lara and Isabel taking their promise and then welcomed them to Girl Guiding with the customary left handshake. The girls have an amazing tale to tell their friends and family in years to come about where they took their Brownie Promise; at a record breaking attempt, late at night and with the Deputy Mayor of Bexley. Not bad eh!

and the Mayors from both the London Boroughs of Bexley and Bromley were invited, and we were delighted that the Deputy Mayor of Bexley, Councillor Nick O'Hare and his wife, were able to attend. The girls were very excited to meet him, and clamoured for autographs, photographs and the chance to chat to them.

To save the embarrassment of having to change in front of everyone, girls and leaders were asked to come dressed in their pyjamas with their uniform over the top. That way they could just remove their uniform as soon as they had put their beds out, and put it back on when they got up the next morning. The lights were switched off at 1am. By this time many of the girls, and a few leaders, were asleep, although most went off to sleep afterwards. It was remarkably easy to wake everyone the next morning, and people got up quickly to beat the rush for the loos!

When their kit was packed away, the girls were given their goody bags with breakfast snacks. Other items in the goody bag included a souvenir badges, souvenir pencils, balloons and bookmarks. Getting everyone offsite as soon as possible after 7.15am was not easy, as we had to rely on

megaphones and legwork to call groups down. We did this in the order the coaches were due to arrive, but the coaches then arrived in a different order!

Just before departure, each participant had to sign the sheet again, and the leaders handed these in as each group was checked out. We did eventually managed to get all 38 coach loads away by 8.45am, only 30 minutes after schedule. The Glades Management said at our debrief meeting that they were pleasantly surprised how clean and litter-free we had left the centre. We pointed out to them that the Girlguiding aim is always to "leave nothing behind but your thanks."

The feedback from participants has been very positive, and the event has raised the profile and standing of Girlguiding in the local community. Our final total was 1,626, this is substantially more than the existing record of 1,045 which we were informed was set in 2003 in Virginia USA, so everyone is looking forward to hearing whether we have been successful in our aim to have hosted the Largest Sleepover/Pyjama Party in the world!

Louise Davenport.

BUGS 'V' FATHER CHRISTMAS!

Last Christmas the Erith & Crayford District Beaver party was a festivity with a difference! Over 150 Boys and Girls, aged 6-8 years, met in Northumberland Heath School for their annual Christmas party. They were delighted with a 'Big Bug Show' where they had a chance to learn, play and even hold gigantic bugs. Lee put on a wonderful performance for the Beavers with learning and a little bit of comedy thrown in. They learnt about Giant Cockroaches, who then had a race across the school hall, being cheered on by 150 shouting Beavers. They then had a chance to

hold a Giant Millipede, A Giant Snail and then topped this off by stroking a large and hairy Tarantula. The finale was a chance for a couple of Beavers and a Leader to eat some dried bugs, just like on TV!

After all the excitement and a short break for a drink and homemade biscuits, they had a visit from a very special visitor – Father Christmas, who had presents and goody bags for everyone. What a great way to complete a fun-packed year celebrating 100 years of Scouting. Wendy.



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 6th December 2008. The winner will be announced in the next issue of **5to25**.

W	T	R	A	D	I	T	I	O	N	S	N	U	F	P
E	P	A	C	K	H	O	L	I	D	A	Y	S	R	A
S	O	E	P	E	O	A	W	X	A	B	O	E	I	X
S	W	L	L	E	N	D	A	H	A	N	D	C	E	W
X	W	V	S	M	A	S	A	C	G	V	W	O	N	O
T	O	E	H	P	G	T	E	S	D	X	A	N	D	O
N	W	S	I	J	R	O	F	B	C	Y	Z	D	S	D
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E	G	N	O	M	E	S	W	T	I	O	E	U	P	A
S	T	M	A	R	Y	S	C	H	U	R	C	H	Y	C

Thanks to 2nd Bexley Brownies for this months Wordsearch, it's based on everything 'Brownie'.
The words are:

PACK HOLIDAYS • POW WOW • BADGES • BROWNIES • LEADERS • BCVYO
CAMP FIRE • COOL • FUN • FRIENDS • PAXWOOD • SIXES • IMPS • ELVES
PIXIE • GNOMES • ST MARYS CHURCH • LEND A HAND • PROMISE • SASH
SECOND BEXLEY • SONGS • TOADSTOOL • TRADITIONS • ENROLMENT

Name:

Address:

Youth Organisation:

