

5 to 25

Bexley Council for Voluntary Youth Organisations Ltd

August 2006



Left - Beavers and friends visit Number 10. See pages 4 & 5 for the full story.

Just so that you know, and can put it in your diaries, the next

Annual General Meeting

of the BCVYO Limited

Baker Trust Hall, Maxim Road, Crayford (next to Sainsburys)

Tuesday 12th June 2007 at 7.30pm.

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.

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Scouts vote Parliament a hit!

By Tim Harlow

When most Scouts are awarded with the Chief Scout's Award it is usually at the end of a meeting in their Scout hut. However, Ian Dunn the leader of 3rd Sidcup Beaver Scouts, decided to something completely different. Why not take the Beavers to the Houses of Parliament and present them with their award there? Now that sounds like a good idea.

Emmanuel Church in Granville Road is also the home of 4th Sidcup Guides, so it was only fair to invite the sisters of the Beavers who have won this prestigious award. And of course parents are always invited to be involved in any Scout event.

Ian contacted his local MP, Derek Conway, and asked if he could help to arrange a visit. "Of course," said Mr Conway, "and why not invite a few local VIPs involved with young people in Sidcup." So Ian invited; Cllr Brian Beckwith (Mayor of Bexley), Insp. Simon Ashenden (Section Commander for Sidcup), Greg Irving (Community Support Officer), Brenda Parsons (Head of Education Business Partnership), Sue Webb (Head Teacher - West Lodge School), Fiona Dear (Head Teacher - Longlands Primary School), Norree Webb (Deputy Head

Teacher - Holy Trinity Lamorbey School), Peter Barnes (Chief Commissioner - Scouts), Diane Swaisland (County Commissioner - Scouts), Elizabeth Coates (Sidcup Commissioner - Guides), The Rev. Michael Williams (Emmanuel Church Minister), and Bob Chapman (Bexley Council for Voluntary Youth Organisations), and you guessed it - everyone said they would like to attend. There were 135 altogether!

The party met at Portcullis House, the new building which houses 210 MP's offices overlooking Big Ben. After a short welcoming speech by Mr Conway, the MP for Sidcup, some brief entertainment followed, with Beaver Samuel Crawford doing some moon walking to Michael Jackson's music and Joseph Ashenden giving a display of Karate. Then there were the presentations of the Chief Scout Bronze Award. This is the highest award a Beaver Scout can achieve and involves three challenges: an Outdoor Challenge, a Friendship or Discovery Challenge and a Personal Challenge.

The awards were presented by the Mayor, Derek Conway MP and Peter Barnes, the Chief Commissioner for

Scouts: quite a lot of VIPs for 6 to 8-year-olds to meet! After Portcullis House, the party made its way to the magnificent splendour and history of the Houses of Parliament.

Mr Conway introduced us to our guide, who had the difficult task of trying to explain to a group with some as young as six years old, the history and meaning of this great building. One Beaver tried to seat on The Throne, only to be told it was reserved for someone else who was also a Guide as a girl. Those children who enjoy history at school started to find those names they had read about had a place in the history of Parliament: Henry VIII, Oliver Cromwell, Winston Churchill and, of course, Guy Fawkes. History started to come alive! Meanwhile, our guide was explaining how parliament works, and how democracy has evolved from the Magna Carta to the present day. As we left Parliament we were all quite mesmerised by the grand splendour and history of this building. Something we were all proud of and which has hopefully given our group a new interest in politics.

We then moved on to visit Downing Street. When someone joins The Scouts, they are 'invested'. This is a simple joining ceremony and is normally held in the Scout Hut. However, Ian thought it would be a good idea to hold this event outside Number 10 Downing Street. So, after a brief discussion with the police officers in charge, the Beavers, Rainbows, and Brownies went

into Downing Street accompanied by the VIPs. and the investiture of Sam took place. Quite an event for a six-year-old!

Finally the party made its way to the Horse Guards Parade. Again, Ian asked for permission for us to visit the stables and it was granted, another rare opportunity. We were told the history of the Horse Guards and how the horses are trained and looked after. Unfortunately one of the horses decided to go to the toilet in front on me - at nose height! As I reared back I collided with a wheelbarrow of manure. This will bring me luck - or so I have been told. The children quite enjoyed that bit!

By now it was 4pm and our party was foot weary and culturally overloaded - it was time for our memorable day to end. Everyone took their time to thank Ian for planning and organising such a perfect day. Ian would also like to thank those adults for their contribution to the event.

On the way home, Ian started to think of the next event to organise. Maybe a camp in the gardens of Buckingham Palace?

PS - The Queen has already advised me that she is "unable to grant the Beavers permission to achieve their Night Away Badge by camping out in the gardens of Buckingham Palace!" But she did send her "best wishes to all the Beavers".

District Cub Camp Skreens Park

by Sharon Amass, District Public Relations Officer



The Erith & Crayford District Cubs celebrated 90 years of Cub Scouting at Skreens Park, Essex. Five packs from the District took part and, although the weather was at times challenging, the atmosphere at the camp was electric.

The leaders arrived on the Friday, had a social evening and prepared for the Cubs arrival the next day. The Cubs arrived and, after organising their kit and tents, made masks ready for the party the following day. Later that day we went on a short hike, which had questions positioned along the course. Although it had

stopped raining, the Cubs got extremely muddy but all thought it was great fun. In the evening the Cubs attend a campfire and afterwards had a wide game collecting coloured rings for points.

The following day the Cubs worked around a course stopping at various bases, eg knotting, Trangia's stoves, circus equipment, compass, egg in a bottle etc



with a short break for lunch.

In the evening Cubs wore their masks and went to a barbeque and had a lovely 90 years celebration birthday cake. The District was also presented with a knot board spelling out 90 years in knots and listing all the people who had attended the camp. This was later presented to the District Commissioner, Lesley Butler, at the District Annual General Meeting and is now displayed at District headquarters. The evening ended with another wide game and the following morning with us breaking camp, although it was again raining.

TryAngle winners take a bow

The 5th Annual TryAngle Awards Ceremony took place on the 23rd February at Crayford Town Hall. Once again the judges were overwhelmed by the high standards of the nominees.

The Bexley Education Business Partnership Awards Team played host at the Awards that recognise the hard work and efforts of young people in the community. Teachers, youth workers and relatives were asked at the beginning of the year to nominate a young person or group for the Awards.

The TryAngle Awards were introduced in Bexley in 2001 to raise the profile of the vast majority of young people in the community who really do try, often with little recognition, to do their best.



Norleen Franz was the runner-up in the Service to the Community Award. Norleen devotes a large part of her spare time to helping others

in the community. She runs the Rainbow unit in Bexley and is an assistant Guider with the 5th Bexleyheath West Guides. Despite starting University last summer she has continued to provide weekend respite care for two teenagers with health problems. Norleen has always done her best to support and help others.

Wordsearch winner is...

Lauretta Kelly, who is a Rainbow Leader at the 3rd Belvedere. A cheque for £20 has been sent to her group, well done.

Second place deserves a mention because they always send in so many entries, but, alas they don't get anything for coming second! They are the Guides from the 1st Northumberland Heath Company. Please keep trying! I must congratulate their leader, Brenda Miller, who received a Civic Award for her years of hard work within the voluntary sector. Years and years!

World record fundraising for Children

A group of 20 Children and Helpers from 9th Erith Beavers and 1st Erith Beavers took part in a double Guinness World Record attempt on Saturday and Sunday 17th/18th June as part of the BT Giant Sleepover.

The nationwide fundraising event for Childline and local charities involved children sleeping over for the night and also simultaneously brushing their teeth!

This was the 3rd annual BT Giant Sleepover, and the record from 2005 for 31,587 people sleeping across the UK and around the world was broken, setting another new Guinness World Record. 9th Erith Beavers were lucky enough to win their sleepover at the BT Centre in London, which was the heart of all

the action and number gathering, and they asked their friends 1st Erith to join in the fun.

They had a wonderful time on their pirate themed sleepover and were taken on a VIP trip riding the London Eye, with photographers and film crew. Also included was a special tour around the Tate Modern Gallery before making their way across the Millennium Bridge for a well earned sleep!! At 8.30am on Sunday morning they were joined by a man from the Guinness Book of World Records, who witnessed them joining in the Aquafresh Minty Mouth Challenge for the most people to simultaneously brush their teeth for two minutes. The final figure for the event is waiting to be verified, but it was confirmed that both records were broken and certificates were awarded in the BT Centre before the group left for home, to prepare for next year's Giant Sleepover!

Another group of Brownies from 1st North Cray took part in the sleepover, raising £60 for Childline. Their leader, Freda Morris, said that the 12 girls had a great time sleeping on the floor of 'The Bothy' at St James Church, North Cray. "It was such a lovely evening that they ate their pizza supper in the garden then played a treasure hunt game and completed the Sleepover Challenges. They even managed to have some sleep."

group picture of sleepover?

Scouts Exhibition Hall Place

In conjunction with the centenary of scouting we are looking for as much memorabilia as possible to show off at an exhibition which we hope will be held during the summer of next year at Hall Place.

I know there are loads of boxes in people's lofts or garages which contain old uniforms or camping bits and pieces. Can we borrow them or even take them off your hands for you? Please contact 'The Scavenger' at the BCVYO office on 020 8855 9496.

Thanks to . . .
Voluntary
Voice, BVSC
and several
groups who
sent in articles.

Awards for All grants

Charities are being urged to apply for grants from a lottery fund that has just doubled its upper limit from £5,000 to £10,000.

According to the Directory of Social Change, the Awards for All scheme continues to be an "extraordinarily under-applied-for programme". This means that the chances are very high that an eligible application will be

successful, it says. The scheme offers small grants (now as low as £300) to 'not for profit' organisations across the UK that wish to run a project that benefits their local communities. Small scale projects that promote arts and education, encourage healthy living, develop local sports, support heritage initiatives and boost community activities are eligible for funding.

Bexley Council's Civic Awards schemes

Last year saw the continued success of the Council's schemes for civic recognition of Bexley people. They highlight the wealth of devoted voluntary service given to the community by the people of the borough.

The civic recognition schemes have been very well received and the Council hopes that this year it will be even better. There are three schemes of civic recognition -

Civic Recognition of Young People: For young people up to age 18 who have undertaken voluntary service to the community or an individual.

Civic Recognition of Voluntary Service by Adults: For people over the age of 18 who have undertaken voluntary service to the community or an individual over a number of years.

Civic Recognition of Outstanding Achievement: For people of any age or organisation/business who, during the year, have achieved outstanding success in any walk of life, including voluntary service, sport and culture, business or acts of bravery or courage.

If you know somebody who might qualify for civic recognition, you can phone Dave Easton at Bexley Council on 020 8294 6150. For more details and a nomination form, write to him at Bexley Council, Civic Offices, Room 122, Broadway, Bexleyheath, Kent DA6 7LB or fill the form in online at www.bexley.gov.uk/about/civicawards The closing date for nominations is 24 November 2006.

Saturday, funday!

On Saturday 15th July we had a massive Birthday Fun Day for Beavers of Erith and Crayford Scout District at our District HQ in Cheviot Close, Erith.

We had over 150 beavers from 13 colonies in the district who turned up for a day of fun activities and crafts. Events included Square

Football, Bouncy Assault Course, Painting Plant Pots, Leaders in the stocks (this proved to be favourite for some reason!), Cork fishing, ball in the bucket, party hat making, badge making, biscuit decorating and many other things. We also made handprints and made up a friendship tree to stand in the

District HQ. This is a temporary measure as we are going to plant a tree in the grounds in the cooler weather.

The event was extremely well turned out and the sun shone down. A great day was had by all.

*Wendy Manley
9th Erith Air Scouts
Beaver Leader*



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 December 2006.

The winner will be announced in the next issue of '5 to 25'.

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

Where did you stay this summer? All these words are places to live! -

BOARDINGHOUSE, WINDMILL, CASTLE, INN, FLAT, PALACE, HOUSEBOAT, APARTMENT, VILLA, TENT, ROOM, COLLEGE, CONVENT, TOWNHOUSE, UNIVERSITY, COTTAGE, HOUSE, HOTEL, CARAVAN, MANORHOUSE, GUESTHOUSE, MANSION, MOTEL, WAGON, ALMSHOUSE, LIGHTHOUSE, CHALET & BUNGALOW.

Name:
Address:
Youth Organisation: