

5 to 25

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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.

OVER THE RAINBOW!



Celebrating the
21st birthday
anniversary of
Rainbow Guides

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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BOB'S BIT

There always seems to be a party celebration and the Rainbows are no exception, 21 this time; congratulations and happy birthday. Watch out, the Guides are nearly 100!

Congratulations also to all of those who received personal awards recently, for years of service to the voluntary sections they support. Some were given special awards for that little bit extra.

Last year Marie Thomas, a Scout leader from Erith, raised many thousands of pounds for Demelza House, the children's hospice, for which she received such an award. Marie did the hard bit, a ten day trek through the rain forest which included climbing a mountain through 18 inches of snow,

copied with the wettest season New Zealand has had for many years. Demelza House is a hospice for special children. So special, that every day for them is a challenge. People like remarkable Mrs Marie Thomas, volunteer to support and make a difference to young people's lives and helped "give life to the days, rather than days to the life". Well done everybody.

I know that many events are done by other organisations but if the articles are not sent in they can't be printed! Please send us your reports and let us outdo the Scouts and Guides for once!

Watch out for another ChangeUp event coming soon, probably in November, details will be sent!

Our Chairman, Fred Vidler, also has news for you...

The BCVYO Ltd is still in the process of applying for its future funding. The current money runs out at the end of December and we hope issues will be resolved before then. More will become available if the Children's & Young People's Services Department at the Local Authority is happy that there is value for

money and they are putting all voluntary sector groups under a similar funding arrangement. As you know we give grants to about 9000 young people in the borough who in turn belong to around 280 voluntary groups. The outcome will be announced as soon as we know. Please be patient and supportive to our cause and remember that our database is secure and only used for issuing grants or giving you relevant information.

RAINBOWS COME OF AGE

This year marks the 21st Birthday of Rainbow Guides, the youngest section of the Guiding movement.

The girls are celebrating the occasion by giving Sunflowers into the community, wearing their uniforms to school to raise public awareness, and on Sunday May 11th, Hurst Division (which comprises five districts and eight units) held a giant birthday party for around 70 Rainbow Guides. The theme for the party was 'Fairies' and all the girls dressed in fairy costumes.

After a picnic lunch there were many activities, including making necklaces, tiaras and bracelets. They made a 21st birthday cake from fairy cakes, and made fairy wands. There were musical games, pass the parcel, a treasure hunt and dancing.

The day concluded with a visit from the Mayor Cllr Nigel Betts, who helped cut the 21st celebration cake with Alice Evans from 7th Sidcup (Christchurch) Rainbows, who celebrated her 6th birthday on the same day. The event was held at the headquarters of Kemnal's Own Scout Group in Sidcup.



Rainbows and Guiders dance the conga (Fairy style!) Photographs by Derek Hope of Kent Photonews, Sidcup

This year, to raise awareness in the community, the Rainbow Guides planted Sunflower seeds. They took them home, watered them, and now several weeks later they are giving them to the community to enjoy.

At Blackfen Rainbow Unit, the girls drew up a list of members of the local community that they would like to present their plants to. The list included teachers, older neighbours doctors and religious leaders. In our

picture above, six year old Jessica Moss, a member of the Blackfen Rainbow Unit, presents her surprise gift to Lollypop Man Roy Whitehead, outside Holy Trinity C of E School in Burnt Oak Lane, Sidcup. Roy aged 75 said:

"It is a lovely gift, and Jessica was able to tell me all about Rainbows and how they grew their plants. I will find a sunny spot in the garden and make sure it thrives!"

To raise public awareness, Girlguiding UK arranged with many head teachers throughout the country for Rainbows to be able to attend school wearing their uniforms. Brampton Primary School in Bexleyheath had five Rainbows in one class, and the girls were thrilled to find that their teacher Louise Hope was a Rainbow Guider too and wore her uniform to school on the special day.

Miss Hope was able to engage the whole class with information about the movement, and the girls were able to tell their classmates about their experiences. Miss Hope said: "I have been a Rainbow, Brownie, Guide and Ranger. Being a Guider allows me the opportunity to give something back to the movement that gave me so much throughout my younger days."

There are many Rainbow units in the Borough of Bexley, and readers can find out more at their local library. Rainbows are aged 5 to 7. The next section, Brownie Guides, is for girls aged 7 to 10, followed by Guides aged 10 to 14, and then the Senior Section which includes Rangers aged 14 to 26. Many who join in the younger sections go on to be leaders in the movement.

RAINBOW FACTS

Rainbows consists of around 80,000 girls aged five to seven (four to seven in NI)

One in seven of all six year old girls in the UK are Rainbows

There are over 6,500 Rainbow units in the UK

PARK LIFE

A small but perfectly formed group of Rangers from the 4th Welling Ranger Unit visited Thorpe Park on Saturday, 24th May.

We set off from Welling Station at 8.30am for the bargain price of £1 per girl under 16 and headed for Staines. Upon arrival at the park we all felt very smug because I'd pre-printed our tickets which meant jumping the HUGE entrance queues! We rushed to buy our priority tickets for Stealth - by far the most imposing ride in the park - and having put down my hot dog we boarded the ride. Emma who was sitting next to me got the shock of her life as the ride started and my ears are still ringing today!

Having collected my hotdog and finished eating it the girls headed for Tidal Wave – and of course got completely soaked, much to my amusement as I stood and watched from a safe distance!

We then queued for 90 minutes for Colossus whilst playing the longest running version of "When I went to Thorpe Park I took with me..." When we finally reached the gates for our turn (all quaking in our boots) they said there was a technical fault and the

engineer was on his way. A bit daunting I must say, but we all decided to stick it out and all screamed the entire way round apart from Vicky who was very quiet and looked a little worse for wear when she got off.

After lunch we decided to do the Rumba Rapids and this was very tame and quite calm. We continued on to Nemesis Inferno, Samurai (the girls hated me for that one!), Detonator (a couple of us went for hot chocolate at this point!), back to Rumba Rapids for a couple more chances to get wet and then off to join the final queue of the day ...to get the bus back to Staines Station.

All in all we had a brilliant day and it was a great chance for a small number of us to get to know each other better (and know who's the bravest!) I think I managed to impress the girls with my staying power on the rides particularly as I'd been to a party the night before and hadn't had very much sleep! I can certainly recommend a trip to those who feel brave enough.

Alexis Freeman
Leader - 4th Welling Rangers



SCOUTS MARK CAPERS 18TH

This year proved to be special for Capers, the Gang Show organised by the Erith and Crayford District Scouts. The show, staged over four days at Erith School, Avenue Road, came of age as it celebrated its 18th year. Capers, which features songs and sketches, involved a cast of more than 65 Scouts and Guides, and a junior gang of ten Beavers. The main cast have been working on the production since before Christmas.

One of those in the audience was Ron Meyer MBE, a regular at Capers shows, who was also the late Ralph

Reader's London Gang Show production assistant. Mr Meyer said that Capers is the best Gang Show in Kent. After the second night's performance on the 10th April, the cast celebrated with an 18th birthday cake, cut by the youngest and oldest members of the cast, Melanie Stephens, age six, and 68 year old Ray Paddington.

Well done Capers and here's to many more years to come. If you were unable to attend or you didn't know about us we will be back on stage again on 16th to 18th April 2009 with a Saturday matinee.



CONGRATULATIONS TO HILARY HASLAM!

from 2th Barnehurst Rainbows for winning the last edition's wordsearch competition! A £20 cheque has been sent to her unit. As usual we received many entries which shows just how popular the wordsearch is!

CAPERS GANG SHOW

Where has the time gone? We have not long ago finished performing our 18th year birthday show with five performances back in April. The cast as always put on a great show with lots of fun and excitement. Dancing, singing, comedy sketches, movements and also our junior gang the Beaver Scouts singing about pets, formed the entertainment of 2008.

As you can imagine there are a great number of people you do not see who are involved with Capers, just to list a few teams: production, costumes, props & scenery, stage crew, technical, front of house, yes the list goes on, and what a great bunch of people they all are. We have had some excellent report backs from our guests and audience who attended our show, Dept Mayor of Bexley, Scout and Girl Guide Commissioners, Jack Seaton (Member of the Grand Order Of Water Rats), and Ron Meyer MBE (Ralph Readers gang show business partner) who wrote:

"I have been coming to Capers for quite a few years now and what I have found most interesting is the way in which the Show has improved during this time. So much so in fact that I believe it to be one of the best in the Kentish Area. The enthusiasm of the cast from the youngest to the oldest, who obviously enjoy everything they do, goes a long way to ensuring the success of the show. And of course they are fully backed by their Producers and indeed by the backstage staff who provide the scenery, lighting, costumes, make-up, etc. On top of this is the excellent musical accompaniment – an essential for any Gang Show. My greatest hope is that the show will continue to entertain for many years to come – I am sure it will!"

Thank you Ron from the Capers Gang.

Putting this show together all started back in August last year with our core team getting together to start work on some show items, followed by the production team meetings. Then the costumes and props started getting their teams together in readiness for the word to start or have you got it yet? Followed by auditions, setting the cast, and then rehearsals, in fact all fourteen of them. At this stage of planning the other teams and crews start getting involved ready for when we go on stage.

If you attended one of our performances this year, thank you and I hope you had an entertaining time

and look forward to seeing you again next year. If you were unable to attend or you didn't know about us we will be back on stage again in April 2009. I will put an advert in the BCVYO before the show. If you are a regular and active member of the Scout Association in the Erith & Crayford District, and you would like to take part in the "Capers" 2009 show.

Please supply your: Name, Address, Telephone Number, Date of Birth, plus the name of your Group, Explorer Unit or Network Unit, then send your information to: Cast for 2009, 107 Eversley Avenue, Barnehurst, Kent, DA7 6RQ. We will send you details regarding the auditions later on this year. If you would like to know more about the late Ralph Reader CBE and his work or Capers Gang Show, and if you were in the London Gang Show, please drop me a letter to the Cast of 2009 address, but head it Gang Show info.

Thank you and all the best for the rest of 2008.

Yours in Scouting.

Trevor Thomas **Gang Show Producer**



TROOPING THE COLOUR

...With 9th Erith Beavers and Cubs.

Akela was lucky enough to get special tickets for Trooping the Colour from the Metropolitan Police. So 6 Beavers and 5 Cubs went on the train to London, armed with packed lunches, to see the Queen.

After having our bags searched, we were escorted to a special enclosure by Horseguards Parade. Here we took our places and made sure we would have a good view of all the soldiers and carriages as they passed in front of us. We waved to the soldiers as they passed in their shiny boots and smart red uniforms. We admired the freshly groomed horses as they passed by on their best behaviour.

Then the carriages came along and it was our chance to wave and cheer to the Queen, who looked lovely in her beautifully polished carriage. While the ceremony was taking place we had a chance to have our picnic lunches and do some quiz and activity sheets that Silver Beaver had prepared for us. We all waved and cheered again as the procession of soldiers and the Queen went by on their way back to Buckingham Palace.

Afterwards we went into the park and played some games, finished our lunches and then bought an Ice Cream. Here we met some Welsh Guards, who had been at the Ceremony, and they kindly had their photo taken with us. We also met some armed police who were carrying large guns and also posed for photos.

Just before 1pm there was a 21 gun salute for the queens birthday and to make the day special we invested our newest Beaver whilst we could hear the guns in the background.

Before we went home we watched a large fly past from lots of different RAF planes. Some made a lot of noise, but they were very skilful, flying in formation. Everyone had a great day out and even Silver Beaver and Akela slept well that night! We also got some very special pictures to help us remember a special day.

Silver Beaver & Akela
9th Erith Beavers and Cubs



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*.

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With all that bad weather blowing around outside this months Wordsearch is for you to remember those sunny holidays on the seashore. The words are:

BEACH • BREEZE • TIDE • HIGHTIDE • SAND • WAVES • SEAIR • COASTER WIND • CLIFF
SHELLFISH • ROCK • SEAWATER • ROCKFACE • STARFISH CHILDREN • LOWTIDE • CASTLES
SEASHORE • BAT • BALL • SEAGULL • SEAWEED • BUCKET • STONES • SPADE • FUN
ICECREAM • CANDY CHAIRS • FISH • CHIPS

Name:

Address:

Youth Organisation:

