

5 to 25

Bexley Council for Voluntary Youth Organisations Ltd

January 2005

Happy New Year

Bob's bit...

Happy New Year to you all and let's hope your year will be better than my last one! After yet another period away from the office I am back and chasing all those who still have not claimed their grants. If you haven't claimed yet and have lost your forms (again) they can be downloaded from our website. Don't forget you need the re-registration form as well as the grant application form. You nearly didn't get this issue but after receiving so many 'wordsearch' entries I realised just which part of the 5 to 25 is important. Thanks to those leaders who get their individual

members to do the wordsearch, I do know it keeps them quiet for a while! (and the kids!) Thanks too for those who have sent in articles, some even used the page supplied, but I must admit if you send them in by email it saves me ages re-writing them. I hope you like the new format for the 5 to 25, any comments? If you have any photos to compliment your articles then please send them in via email and I will try and use them. Once again seasons greetings to one and all, keep up the good work, which really is appreciated.

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A Great Weekend at Pontins!

On Friday 8th October a group of 14 Brownies, 19 Guides, and 7 Guiders from Welling District met at the Methodist Church for the long awaited trip to Pontins near Great Yarmouth!!

The Greater London & Kent County of the Guide Association had booked out the entire Pontins Holiday Camp at Pakefield for the weekend - and taken just about every possible coach for hire in the area (and outside!).

The journey was extremely smooth - no traffic delays at all - though the driver got a bit of a shock when the singing started just after Chelmsford!! We arrived at Pakefield just after 9.30 and were the 2nd coach in - a good start to the holiday.

The girls and guiders had their own chalets, which for most of the girls, aged 7-15, was a completely new and liberating experience - although the chalets were all within "listening" distance of the leaders. Once beds were picked and bags were unpacked it was off to the ballroom for a packed tea and a bit of a disco until all of the other girls arrived. Unfortunately the final coach didn't arrive until gone 11.00 by which time some of our younger ones were begging to go to bed - but we had to stay up so that we could meet Captain Croc and Zena the Zebra and all the other Pontins characters and entertainment staff.

Up bright and early on Saturday morning for a big breakfast to set us up for the day, we managed to secure seats in one of the lifeboats in the restaurant. Then we had our District's hour in the swimming pool where we practiced for our swimming gala and had some fun races and then had a huge splash when all of the girls jumped into the pool at one time!!

The best thing for the girls was that they could wander around in groups without us, so once we'd had a walk round and got our bearings the girls went off to find the activities they wanted to do.

The choice of activities was vast; football, volleyball, fencing, rock climbing, archery, aeroball (like netball on a trampoline, and believe me very tiring!) shooting, circus skills, karaoke (yes Brown Owl and Barney did have a go as Olivia and John from Grease!) snooker, darts, abseiling, mini golf, adventure playground, giant jenga or chess, a walk to the beach, line dancing, trampolining, gladiator podium contestand many many more.

We met up for lunch and heard the many tales from the girls exploits that morning and what they were hoping to do in the afternoon. Most of them wanted to have a go at quad biking or Zipwire - the girls are harnessed up and then climb up the scaffold tower and are clipped onto a wire and whiz down the length of the wire. Unfortunately even though we queued for 2 _ hours we didn't get a turn and we were told to come back the next day.

We all went back to our chalets whilst I (Brown Owl) put the kettle on and made a lovely cup of tea for us all to warm up whilst I painted 9 sets of little nails with glitter ready for the disco.

After dinner we all got dressed up in our best disco gear (and a little bit of disco make up) and set off to hit the dance floor. The girls had a lovely time and we all went back for bed at 10.00pm. A little bit of TV viewing in their rooms until 10.30 and then lights out ready for another busy morning on Sunday.

All up at 07.30 - much to the girl's disappointment - no lie in on a Sunday! All girls washed and dressed and time for the flurry of packing suitcases and clearing the chalets.

Straight after breakfast we decided to sing a couple of songs at Karaoke, we then moved to Archery and table tennis. Elevenses were consumed and then it was time to try again for the Zipwire and 3 of our girls had a go before it was declared too windy and we decided to go off and warm up and have lunch (roast beef and jam roly poly and custard - yum). Do you get the impression we just ate all weekend - that's how it felt!!

All too soon we had to take our cases to the coach point and then go to the ballroom for the farewell ceremony and say goodbye to all our new friends from Pontins and around the County.

Our coach left at 3pm and in between excited chitter chatter and gentle snores we all filled in our questionnaires about the weekend and received a special Pontins badge that can be sewn onto our uniforms or camp blankets. The journey was very quick with no delays and we arrived back at the church for 6pm - a little hoarse from the final rendition of "everywhere we go".

Everyone was back with their parents, safe and sound having had an absolutely brilliant weekend and asking - can we come again next year?

Many thanks need to go to everyone who organised the event, I was involved in a small part of the organisation and that was quite enough!

Next year we'll be back at Paxwood and I just hope the girls aren't expecting the same kind of events - I think it might be a little bit out of our reach!!

Once again I have to say Guiding is Brilliant, there's nothing better for experiencing new things, challenging yourself and meeting new people. I love it - bring on the Swimming Gala next Sunday!!

Brown Owl - 4th Welling (Methodist)
Brownies aka - Alexis Freeman

GLSE Scouts Day at the Beach

Everyone connected to the Greater London South East Scout County is invited to a day at the beach on Sunday the 17th of July 2005. Put the date in your diary now and let all your leaders and parents know. The place is Minnis Bay (Joss Bay is full that day!) and is easily found near the end of the A2 near Herne Bay.

It is a purely social affair where families take their own kids as a means to meeting fellow scouters so that everyone can have a day off without having to fill in endless forms. The idea is to have fun without having to be as responsible as you usually are! Minnis Bay has loads of room and miles of promenades, oh! and a restaurant. The sunset is spectacular and there is serious space for hugh sandcastles – for which there will be a competition. Bring garden spades for better results!

That's it... a day at Minnis Bay on 17th July, come along we dare you to have fun.

From Scouts HQ...

If any Scouts out there want help for painting, gardening, erecting fences etc, then contact Trevor Young at the Scouts Organisation who can help you. Goldman Sachs and their Community Teamwork Programme let their employees (min 5 at a time) out of their offices to help with a community project for a day. They provide all the materials (and they normally overestimate!) so give Trevor a call on 0208 433 7227 or email your details to Trevor.young@scout.org.uk. I really do not know if this applies to other groups but it may be worth a try!

I'm a hedgehog flea, get me out of here!

For those of you who have visited Sidcup by car and found it difficult to get out of the area, spare a thought for the hedgehog population of Sidcup. According to Mavis Righini of Prickles Hedgehog Haven (020 8462 1168), who gave a talk recently to the Erith & Crayford Scout Fellowship, the hedgehogs of Sidcup are the only local hedgehogs who have fleas. Don't panic though as hedgehog fleas only stay on hedgehogs and do not jump onto other beings. The reason is due to the traffic problem and that is because Sidcup is surrounded by major roads. So it's not only the cars that cannot escape but hedgehogs too, and so the flea population lives. I wonder if this is why the road system is as it is?

Mavis gave a wonderful talk on helping hedgehogs and is a member of the British Hedgehog Preservation Society. Some of their aims are to encourage and give advice to the public and to encourage children to respect natural wild-life. The society also funds serious research into behavioural habits of hedgehogs and assist in their survival. Mavis said she would love to talk to any group that are interested young or old, and actually brought a real live hedgehog along with her.

WORDSEARCH COMPETITION

A prize of £20 will be awarded to your nominated Voluntary Youth Organisation 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 7th March 2005. The winner will be announced in the next issue of "5 to 25".

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Here's an old one, but you may still recognise many of these 'Soaps' from the TV. BROOKSIDE, ER, KINSEY, THE BILL, CASUALTY, HIGH ROAD, HOME & AWAY, SULLIVANS, THE ONEDIN LINE, GEORGE & MILDRED, BIRDS OF A FEATHER, PRISONER-CELL-BLOCKH, EASTENDERS, NEIGHBOURS, CROSSROADS, HART TO HART, PEAK PRACTICE and OPEN ALL HOURS.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Youth Organisation: _____