

5 to 25

Bexley Council for Voluntary Youth Organisations Ltd

August 2006



In July a group of 9 lucky Guides and their three leaders went on a 10 day session at Sangam followed by 5 days in India. See inside for their report. December 2006 issue

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 Sainsbury's)

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.

**BCVYO Ltd, PO Box 452, Sidcup, Kent
Tel. 020 8855 9496 email: bcvyo@hotmail.com Website: www.bcvyo.org.uk
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Bob's bit...

By Bob Chapman

As ever, at this time of year, I would like to wish each and every one of you seasons greetings wherever you are or whatever you are doing. This coming year sees the most amazing events being organized by the Scouts Association to celebrate One Hundred years of Scouting, so please remember the ScoutFest100 in May (20th at Welling Football Club) and the exhibition of scouting at Hall Place starting on Sunday 13th May until July 16th. The

'scavenger' is still collecting memorabilia for this event so if you have anything worth showing give him a ring on the BCVYO number. May I remind you all again that our AGM is on 12th June and the Civic Parade is on the 24th June. Also, as ever, I have to chase those groups who still have not claimed their grant. A form can be download from our website – it is a very easy process.

Blackland farm 2006

On Monday 10th April 19 Guides and 3 leaders from 5th East Wickham Guides set off from Welling to Blackland farm, West Sussex for 5 days. As we got near to the destination the snow on the ground became more and more evident, but it was ok, we were not sleeping in tents but in the indoor accommodation. The excited girls soon unloaded the mini bus and then it was on to sorting teams for the week, there were the Lambs, the Chicks, and the Bunnies. Then there were crafts to be started and a roast dinner was well on the way. Over the next two days all the girls took part in climbing and abseiling, the zip wire, the create challenge, low ropes assault course and team

building exercises. Some of the girls conquered their fears of heights and completed things they never thought possible for them with great determination. The evenings were filled with quizzes, bingo games, Easter egg hunts in the dark and the making of egg-men and their cars for the 'wacky races' tournament. Thursday morning it was up and out for our day trip to Brighton. The sun was shining by the time we reached our destination and our leaders were sitting on the end of Brighton pier with our packed lunch. The girls showed even more bravery when going on some of the large roller coasters and rides, but the 3 adults were just happy to watch. We all

then enjoyed a hot fresh donut before visiting the sea life centre. Friday came all too soon and it was time to pack up for home, but not before a couple more games and a walk in the woods. Prizes were given out and it was onto the mini bus, with Welling soon in sight again. All the girls said they had had so much fun and would definitely be on the next one! The leaders said they weren't so sure, their feet were weary their legs tied and as for their eyes they could barely keep them open long enough to put the kettle on! But after a good weekend of sleep they were already planning holiday 2007.

GLK Guides - Sangam Experience

By the leaders, with quotes from the Guides



In July 9 girls with three leaders went to Sangam followed by a 5 day tour of India for a session entitled Bollywood Dreams. In addition we had lots of opportunities to find out about Indian people and their cultures, as well as meeting the local Guide unit. A group of children from Maher performed a play and dance about the life of Ghandi. Maher is a project which supports women and their children where, in a lot of cases, their husband had died and they had been cast out by the family. We visited a leprosy rehabilitation centre called Anand Gram which means Village of Joy and it really

was a lovely place. There were 400 children there. We traveled around in Rickshaws where traveling around is mad as nobody gives way and everyone uses their horns. There is chaos everywhere and amongst it all you find a cow asleep in the middle of the road. Everywhere we went people were very welcoming and enjoyed telling us about their lives. Our tour included Agra, Jaipur and Delhi before heading home. The Taj Mahal was a magical moment and three of the girls chose to make their Ranger promise whilst we were there. Staying at Sangam gave us an insight into India that most

visitors would never get. We all felt very honoured to be welcomed into people's homes and to find out about the real India. The girls were a pleasure to take. They were brilliant ambassadors for GLK. Below are some brief comments from those who went. Charlotte said, 'I really enjoyed the Sari shopping and the Taj Mahal, but my



favorite memory was visiting the leprosy rehab centre'. Angharad said 'Sangam itself was amazing, my favorite part was traveling around in rickshaws, but the highlight was undoubtedly seeing the Taj Mahal'. Anita said 'my best memories are the chance to see the real India'. Kate said 'It was so different and such a big adventure, everywhere we went there was something to discover', Rachel said she will never forget it, Fie said the thing she liked most was being with our girls who were great company and seeing things again with fresh eyes through them.

Georgina wasn't sure what to write as she enjoyed it all. Poppy said 'being in a



rickshaw made you feel involved with the daily life', and another Charlotte said her most precious memory was seeing all about Indian life. Emma enjoyed the elephant riding and Leah had a fabulous time and enjoyed the whole thing. Finally Judith said 'What an experience! Nothing could have prepared us for what we saw'. She said she could ride a horse and has ridden a camel but now can say she has also been on an elephant.



80 years of Guiding - A visit to DISNEYLAND, PARIS

by Brenda Miller, Guide Guider.



The 1st Northumberland Heath Guide Company celebrated their 80 years of Guiding on the 26th November 2006. There have been quite a few changes in uniform, badges and syllabus during that time and past Guides were invited to help share the celebration with a party

for everyone on Tuesday, 5th -December. The present Guides also celebrated the occasion with a trip to Disneyland, Paris, staying in Disney Village. A group of 29 Guides plus leaders spent a very enjoyable weekend there and everything went smoothly. There was only

one mishap when a Guider fell off the cup and saucer (a ride of course) and broke her wrist. The Guides were excellently behaved and thoroughly enjoyed themselves as you can see from the following report by some of the girls.

DISNEYLAND, PARIS -2006

A mixture of emotions overwhelmed us as members of the 1st Northumberland Heath Guides boarded the coach on 24th November. We were going to Disneyland, Paris, to celebrate 80 years of Guiding in that company. The coach journey took 7 hours. We caught the 6.30 pm shuttle through the tunnel and the coach then took us on to Disneyland where we arrived at The Hotel just before midnight, still very excited. Breakfast was at 7 am, then we walked into the Disney Park and were split into small groups of 6 or 7 with three leaders. Some went to Space Mountain first, some went to Pirates of the Caribbean and others sorted out tickets for some of the shows on offer like The Lion King. The best part of the whole day was definitely lunch. We all went to the Restaurant

called The Lucky Nugget for a buffet menu. There was a live band playing jazz and then the Disney Characters appeared. It was amazing, they came to our table and gave us a hug, had a joke and signed the autograph books. Fantastic. After lunch we went on more rides and watched the Christmas parade and later on the Disney Parade which finished at 8 pm. We were still very excited and walked back to the hotel through the Disney Village where we stopped at MacDonaldis for more food. The Parades were amazing, we had never seen anything that pretty before in the dark. The Christmas lights were all different colours with a Christmas tree that was very tall. The shops were lit up too. After a good night's sleep we were up again on the Sunday at 7 am. We went back to the park and were able to go on the rides that

we, had missed the previous day. Then into the Studios where we went to see an amazing stunt-show, it was wicked, with people racing forwards and backwards in cars, people jumping from the roof and a motorbike chase which ended with one rider setting himself on fire. We then went to two brilliant shows called Animagique and CineMagique where we again saw the Disney characters. Afterwards we went outside and guess what, a parade was about to start so we went to the end of the line as the characters came along. They stopped right next to us, got off their floats and came and talked to us. It was wicked. All too soon it was time to return to England so we reluctantly boarded the coach at 4 pm to begin the long journey home. Georgia, Katie, Grace, Alicia, Hannah, Natasha and Kelly.

Wordsearch winner is...

Mr F Allen from the 2nd Erith SCOUTS, at last the Guides hold on winning has been broken. Congratulations, a cheque for the voluntary youth organisation of your choice (2nd Erith of course) is on its way. Just a minute, your wife won it a few years ago! Good to see a regular response, thanks.

GLK International trip to Switzerland Kandersteg International Scout Centre



31st July – 7th August 2006



After a busy summer in 2005, finishing school and preparing myself to move away from home and begin a life as a student, I had not planned on taking part in International Guiding or Scouting this year. When the International opportunities were announced towards the end of the year, two of my fellow guiders, Sally and Lucy, were selected to lead a group, and I was looking forward to helping them fundraise for the trip...little did I know my involvement would not stop there! In the February, Sally telephoned me explaining that the rules regarding the number of leaders taking groups on International trips had changed, and was now a minimum of three adults, so would I like to go and fill the 3rd leader's space? It took no time at all to decide! Switzerland, what an opportunity! I was honoured and excited to be asked to join them. The months that followed included a sleepover, a weekend camp and a day trip in London, interspersed with arranging flights, Swiss train passes and planning the itinerary.

July caught up with us very quickly and before we knew it we were bundling 14 rucksacks through the Gatwick check-in desks at 6am! Armed with another 14 backpacks and 6 tents, the 'GLK Switzerland 2006' group enjoyed a relaxed flight to Zurich, before a train journey to Bern, and then to Kandersteg. Our day trips varied from reaching the top of the Jungfrau – which involved

10 trains and a bus in one day! – to site-seeing and shopping in Bern, and from visiting Our Chalet and the Woodcarvers to seeing the Trout Farm and taking a boat ride. It was a packed week! Swiss National Day also coincided with our trip, so we joined in with the rest of the campers at Kandersteg and paraded into the village to enjoy the celebrations and fireworks! The group of selected girls were a credit to Greater London Kent County, working as a great team and have formed firm friendships. They embraced this experience fully – the camping, making international friends, being a part of an international scouting event and visiting the country. I'm sure both girls and leaders alike will find it a trip hard to forget! Thank you very much for helping to make this trip possible by awarding us a grant. As you can tell, everyone involved gained so much from it and we are all looking forward to the reunion!

Emma Haslam, Assistant Leader



Lions on Tour in Historic FrenchTown

A bright and early departure was the order of the day as the Foots Cray Lions JFC under-12 team left Bexley at 6 am on 23rd May destined for the small town of Brienne-Le-Chateau, 200kms south-east of Paris. This was just one of many visits over the last 10 years by Foots Cray Lions JFC to Brienne, famous as the birthplace of Napoleon. A complimentary upgrade by the coach company saw the team travelling in style on the MK Dons team coach. A comfortable 9 hours later and we arrived at our accommodation in the Municipal Hall overlooking the football stadium. As always, we received a warm welcome from our French hosts. After a slightly later breakfast than planned the next morning, the team shook off the effects of the previous day's journey with a training session, which quickly drew an audience of young French Mademoiselles! This was followed by an excellent lunch and then a short coach trip into the Parc du Lac, a picturesque national park with a man-made beach and lakes. Despite the odd shower, cold wind, and icy water, our lads were soon in the water – had they really

lost their sanity! On our return to Brienne, we joined the reception for the arrival of TSV Goddelau from Germany, another team that forms part of our Club's array of international associations. And on to Thursday, Ascension Day, celebrated by a street market, carnival and the junior football tournament. A slow start with the first match resulting in a defeat, and despite a steady improvement, the team could only finish 3rd in their group. The afternoon knock-out stages produced one win and two defeats, both in penalty shootouts but, in the best of British spirits, it was the taking part that mattered. On the Friday our hosts took us to a nearby theme park. The tour drew to a close that evening with a meal and reception in the Municipal Hall and with the now customary exchange of gifts to mark yet another successful year in the friendship between Brienne, Goddelau and ourselves. It was a weary group that arrived back in Bexley on the Saturday evening, but unanimous in our views that this had been yet another excellent overseas tour.

Christian Adventure Centre Unveils Extensive Redevelopment Plans

Popular youth retreat venue Carroty Wood in Kent has announced plans to build a multi purpose state of the art sports hall, indoor climbing wall and a further 45-bed self-contained accommodation to increase capacity at the woodland centre to over 250 beds. The Carroty Wood site at Tonbridge is one of the most modern centres in the south of England offering a wide range of outdoor instructed activities such as archery, high ropes and canoeing. Chief Executive of Barnabas Adventure Centres Graham Carruthers said “A lot of young people get a bad press these days. Our vision for Barnabas is to be ‘investors in young people’. These new

facilities will further enhance our work in providing state of the art facilities for churches as they seek to draw young people towards the living God”. Carroty Wood is launching a fund raising appeal to raise £1.2 million over the next 18 months for this development, continuing essential investment in young people. The 58 acre site is one of 4 adventure centres run by Christian charity, Barnabas Adventure Centres, who next year celebrate 85 years of operation. Each year around 40,000 young people stay at a Barnabas centre.

For further information contact:
Charlie de Rusett, Barnabas Adventure Centres Tel: 01732 366766;
email:
Charlie.derusett@barnabas.org.uk

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

"Gang Show" What's that? Well let's ask a Producer . . .



For a start you must be involved in Scouting or Guiding, have an interest in the arts and go along to an audition to be a cast member. Then it becomes harder! But with fun, rehearsing for one day a week for 15 weeks learning all the songs, sketches, dancing, movement, and getting ready for that 1st night performance on stage. It starts to come together at the dress rehearsal when the make-up, costumes, scenery, tech bits and acting start to fall into place. But wait? What about the audience? While waiting for the curtains to open there is a loud chatting sound coming from the audience who you can't see at that precise moment. The intro music stops and the curtains start to open to an eerie silence. At that point we have Lights - Sound - Action and we now have a show. At the end of that 1st performance

I asked a young cast member how did it go? He replied "great". At the end of the fifth performance on the Saturday night, I asked again? He replied, "Great - Great, It was just Great, can we do it again next year?". This is a brief insight into putting a gang show together. I hope it gave you a feel for the hard work involved. But even before the auditions there is a production team putting in a lot of hard work and hours with meetings and planning before the show gets started. Not forgetting all the other teams and crew members also involved with the show. How about coming along

to watch our gang show in 2007, and have a great time and see a great show put on by Scout and Guides of all ages. By the way my answer to the cast member was "YES", as you may have guessed by now. We are the Erith & Crayford "Capers" Gang Show. Our show dates are Wednesday 11th to Saturday 14th April 2007 also with a matinee on the Saturday, at Erith School, Avenue Road, Northumberland Heath, Erith, Kent. Do have a Great Christmas and a Happy New Year from the cast and crew of our gang show and we look forward to welcoming you in our audience, so please book your tickets and join us for our 17th Year.

**By Trevor Thomas
(Gang Show Producer)**

**Please see the "Capers"
gang show attachment
that came with your
5 to 25 magazine.**



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 April 2007, better make that the 2nd in case you think I'm joking!.. The winner will be announced in the next issue of "5 to 25".

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This month is to remind your leaders to claim their grant from the BCVYO, everything is about the BCVYO.

The words are:- BCVYO, MONEY, CHEQUE, STAMP, NUMBERS, SUPPORT, MAGAZINE, ELECTION, BOB, CHAPMAN, FRED, VIDLER, SECRETARY, APPOINTED, CANDIDATE, MINUTES, CHECK, PRINT, EARLY, CLEAR, QUESTIONS, CHILDREN, ACCOUNTS, SECTIONS, COMMITTEE, DISTRICT, ADDRESS, and TREASURER.

Name:

Address:

Youth Organisation: