

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.

Sing along to the tune that Maria sang in *The Sound of Music* (with thanks to Richard Rogers.)

This is due to Bexley Councils commissioning requirements, and the need to reduce administration costs, see inside for details.

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*There's a sad sort of clanging
From the clock in the hall
And the bells in the steeple too,
And up in the nurs'ry an absurd little bird
Is popping out to say "Coo-coo".*

*Regretfully they tell us,
But firmly they compel us
To say goodbye to you.*

*So long, farewell, auf wiedersehen, good night,
I hate to go and leave this pretty sight.
So long, farewell, auf wiedersehen, adieu,
Adieu, adieu, to yien and yien and yien.*

*The 5to25 has gone to bed and so must I
So long, farewell, auf wiedersehen, goodbye,
Goodbye, Goodbye,
Goodbye!*

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.



BOB'S BIT

Happy New Year to you all and I trust you had a great Christmas. 2009 already; where does the time go? It is with a great deal of sadness that I tell you of the death of one of our founding members, Peter Lampon, who died on Christmas Eve. Our thoughts go to his wife and family. The Chairman and I will attend his funeral.

The other end of an era is this newsletter which is the last edition in a series of about 60 spanning 15 years, and I've got them all. Information about all sorts of things including fundraising is still available on our website, which I know you all read regularly, but as a reminder it is www.bcvyo.org.uk.

We have received our last tranche of money from the local authority for this financial year so, as always, those who still have not claimed, be quick! This time, if it runs out, it really runs out!

Sadly there is a message from your Chairman about the BCVYO's future following Bob's bit... You will hear more later in the year. For these reasons, production of this last **5to25** has been delayed for some time so that we can tell you what is happening.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the new Guide County Commissioner, Caroline Thomas, and thank the outgoing one, Alison Bruce. I am glad to say Alison is now very active on the BCVYO Committee. I would also like to thank all of you who have supported the BCVYO over the years. Keep a note of the date for our AGM, 9th June 2009 at 7.45pm, at the Baker Trust Hall, Crayford.

Goodbye ...for now!

CHAIRMAN'S FORUM

I too am sad to say goodbye to Peter who has fought tirelessly for the BCVYO over its entire existence. He was a strong ally and will be sorely missed. As far as the BCVYO is concerned we have been severely hit by the 'credit crunch' and the company as we have known it will be completely revamped, subject to any last minute reprise. As it stands the status of being a Charity and a Limited Company will stop at the end of this financial year. This means massive administration cut backs which will hopefully be successfully transferred to other places, that is – you! We are also hoping that the actual grant will still be distributed by Bob through

a new setup, still called the BCVYO but without an office or phone! In this modern day and age, 21st Century and all that, our dealings will all be via the internet or website. Our PO Box will remain for the time being whilst we find out how well it works. If a future grant is given to us, it should mean that the grants will increase, so don't give up hope just yet. We will keep you informed, via others if need be, but rest assured we will continue to fight for the money desperately needed for your groups. We ask you to help Bob over the next few difficult months to make sure this happens, thank you.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DANIELLE MAY!

from 2nd Barnehurst Guides for winning the wordsearch competition in the last issue of **5to25**! A £20 cheque has been sent to her unit. As usual we received many entries which shows just how popular the wordsearch is!

IN MEMORY OF PETER LAMPON

1927-2008. A founder member of the BCVYO, Peter Lampon died on Christmas Eve 2008 aged 81, after a period of serious illness that not many people really knew about. He worked tirelessly for both the BCVYO and the Bexley District Junior Football League (BJFL) formed in 1973, where he was Vice-Chairman for the years it has existed.

In 1970, Peter formed Parkmere Football Club – for some youngsters who were always playing in the streets near his house. He was still their Chairman when he died.

When the BCVYO was first set up, Peter was there as a representative for local voluntary football clubs, and fought their cause on many an occasion. He received an award from the



Football Association recognising 25 years service and in 2004 he received Civic Recognition by the Mayor of Bexley, who will hopefully be attending Peter's funeral.

Peter was a newspaper man working as an editor of *The European*, a paper printed for the then famous Robert Maxwell. Peter sometimes talked about how Maxwell had ruined his retirement plan, especially when signing your grant cheques. I will personally miss Peter a great deal as he was so supportive in my work at the BCVYO. He would be terribly sad to know of its demise.

Peter's wife Joyce and his family, have asked me to thank you for all your kind wishes. R.I.P. Peter, sincerely yours, Bob.

THE BEXLEY AND DISTRICT JUNIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Last April our day of cup finals were due to be played, but, due to the weather we were shivering under a blanket of snow, which meant that for the first time in 38 years we had to cancel. Thanks to our committee we managed to rearrange for another date and the Mayor, Councillor Nigel Betts, kindly came along to award the prizes. Thanks to St John Ambulance for providing First Aid cover and thank you, Bob, for your support by escorting the Mayor.

The days events were the result of much work and determination by many teams in order to achieve a place in the finals. Let us also remember the hard work done by the team managers and their assistants, who are all volunteers, giving up spare time to help the youth of Bexley.

Bexley Football League development is to be seen in our league tables. Thanks to the hard work done by all our committee members who, also as volunteers, work in their spare time in order to run a fair football competition, which is the essence of the game.

My earliest recollection of Sunday youth football, dating back to the 1970's, abound with mammoth score lines of double figures which were virtually the norm, and winning by 20 goals or more was far from rare.

This seems to be a good time to invite any teams wishing to join a well-run league to phone our secretary Hazel Annett on [0208 856 4658](tel:02088564658). We cater for mini-soccer, from 7 to 11, and 11-a-side aged 11 to 18. We are always looking for volunteers to help run the league, some of the jobs can be done at home!

Finally, one piece of information is that The Football Association has been running for the last 127 years, and Bexley Junior Football League are members of that association, which is our governing body.

— Peter Lampon

CUBS CROSS COUNTRY RUN

Sunday 16th November started out quite a nice day, not too cold or windy with just a little light drizzle. This was the day of the East Wickham and Welling District Cubs Cross Country Run. To make it more of an activity 1st East Wickham and 1st Welling Cubs met at Shoulder of Mutton Green and walked up Shooters Hill towards Oxleas Wood. The light drizzle began turning into heavier drizzle but we kept walking, and finally reached the woods, heading for a rope swing that we played on last year. The heavier drizzle then turned into heavy rain, so on Health and Safety grounds the rope swing was abandoned. We continued walking in the woods and then into the open where the heavy rain lashed down on us and I had visions of getting to the top of the hill and Richard Gillman (organiser) saying sorry but

the race is off due to conditions. When we got to the top we headed for the cafe which was packed with doggy walkers and hikers, all eating hot drinks and a bacon sandwiches which looked very tempting! After a hot chocolate we waited for Richard and other leaders and cubs to arrive. Richard lined the cubs up on the path who were to run down the hill (the one we just walked up) to the first bush. A marshall was standing there to guide them across the field, where another marshall was waiting then on the home straight back up the foot path to Richard and other leaders. It was a nail biting finish. Well done to all that took part and the parents who braved the weather.

— Anne Rickson, Cub Scout Leader

FUN DAY 2008

The East Wickham district held their Fun day for the 2nd year running on 20th Sept at Pax Wood in Wilmington. Lots of fun was had by the 85 girls that took part from across the Rainbows, Brownies and Guides. The leaders had their share of fun too. All the girls took part in one hour sessions of craft, where they made dream catchers, flowerpots with pot fairies and windmills. In the food corner, they tasted different chocolates and made fruit and sweet kebabs and iced cookies etc. and there

was also the Beauty room, with a hairdresser, face painting, foot spas and nail treatments. The Brownies also did trampolining and went on a nature trail, with the Guides doing an aerobics session and team building exercises. To end the day there was a barbeque before the girls went home. I am sure the day will be repeated next year with different activities, but the same amount of fun to be had by all.

THE CAPERS GANGSHOW

is running for three evenings at 7.30pm on April 16th, 17th and 18th and a matinee on Sat 18th at 2.30pm. See their website for booking details:

www.capersgangshow.org.uk



BEXLEY POKEMON LEAGUE

Have you ever wondered how to use the Pokemon Trading Cards that you probably have somewhere in a drawer or a box at home? Bexley Pokemon League meets every Wednesday in Welling and welcomes players of all levels from Beginners to World Qualifiers.

If you have never played before we can teach you how. You can practice and try out your new decks, earn badges and meet up with like minded friends. There are tournaments held throughout the UK with the National Championships held in May of each year. The top players in each country qualify to play in the World championships held each year in the USA.

Jason Klaczynski (back row in the middle) who lives in the USA came to the UK to keep his promise and play at some of the UK leagues and to help players amend their

decks. Jason qualified in August and he played in the World Championships which were held in Florida and after a full days play he was rewarded by winning for the second time. Over 50,000 players worldwide entered the preliminary rounds to be able to be one of the 128 players from each division that competed. Here are a few of the Bexley Pokemon League members who were lucky enough to meet Jason and to play against him.

If you need any information please email Maureen at bexleypokemon@gmail.com



A PIECE OF CAKE!

4th Erith Guides celebrated their 80th birthday during 2008. The unit was actually registered with Guide HQ on 15th August 1928. The Guides decided that being 80 was special so they wanted a series of celebrations. As a joke the leaders gave the Guides a 12 inch inflatable birthday cake at the start of the year and challenged them to take it to every Guiding event they took part in during the year. As a result some of the places the cake has been to are:

- To the GLK sleepover at The Glades in Bromley
- To Trooping the Colour where we were in the youth pen on the corner of Horse Guards
- On a London Duck tour
- To Switzerland – where it had its photo taken on cable cars, trains and boats, spent a night sleeping in straw in a barn, went up mountains and lots more
- Division Guide quiz
- To Disneyland Paris – where it had its photo taken with Minnie Mouse
- Division Swimming Gala
- Special Church Parade to mark our 80th Birthday
- Open evening for our 80th birthday
- Division Guide camp
- Pax Wood for a Guide weekend away
- Climbing at The Cave
- BP Challenge Adventure to Pax Lodge and The Globe theatre
- Big Gig – a pop concert just for Guides

We are left with the dilemma of what to do with it now our 80th birthday is over. One suggestion has been to store it in a time capsule together with the photos of its adventures, until our 90th birthday!



LASER SOUTH AFRICA 2008

The last year and a half have been incredible: exciting, busy, emotional, stressful, happy and wonderful. Last May when I applied to 'find out more' about Region International Opportunities, I never imagined that I'd actually be invited to lead a trip, let alone lead a Region trip to help pioneer the Region's Centenary plans in South Africa!

London and South East England Region (LaSER) has formed a partnership with God's Golden Acre, an NGO working in KwaZulu Natal and the 2008 trip was the first phase of the project. The team was made up of 14-18 year old Guides who had been hand-picked to be part of the project.

God's Golden Acre (GGA) was founded in 1994 and works in rural areas within the communities of KwaZulu Natal. They provide food, education, clothing and medical care, as well as providing opportunities to those most in need. South African Airways kindly gave us 20kg of free luggage allowance which allowed us to take out everything we needed. We also took an extensive list of simple action songs and parachute games to share with the different children we would meet.

When we finally arrived at God's Golden Acre the excitement was almost unbearable. Volunteers come from all over the world to stay and work at GGA and I felt privileged to be invited. Our time was spent doing a variety of things. We spent late afternoons and evenings with the 70 extraordinary children who live on site who have been orphaned or abandoned as a result of the HIV pandemic and/or violence. Some of them have physical or emotional disabilities, some have been victims of abuse or trauma and so can't be cared for in their communities.

The children at GGA are often referred to as the 'Khayelihle Kids'. They are put into foster families with several adults acting as parents or careers. Each cluster foster family has a Gogo (Grandmother), Aunties and a House Parent who is responsible for overseeing the general care, welfare and education of each of the children in the family. The children are encouraged to maintain connections with their Zulu roots. They eat traditional Zulu foods and communicate in their native language. They are disciplined in the same

ways they would be if they lived with their families in the valleys of KwaZulu Natal.

The aim of the Houses of Hope project is to build homes for orphaned families and upgrade homes that are simply not habitable. We were driven into one of the valleys nearby and shown one of the sites that the GGA Building Team was currently working on. The home belonged to a grandmother and her eight grandchildren, whom she cared for on her own. The Rondavel (round circular hut) they were living in, was poorly made. The walls were made of clay type mud and wooden branches and the roof was simply corrugated iron. It was falling apart. During the rain the roof would leak and we were told there were strong possibilities of collapse as it just wasn't structurally safe.

When we visited the next House of Hope we were able to get more involved and actually help to finish it off, ready for a family to move into the following week. The house belonged to one of the first young girls that GGA had helped and had been burnt out by members of the local community. The mother of the family was dying of TB and so the children were being cared for by their elderly grandmother. We painted the house inside and out and the family moved in shortly after we left.

As well as sightseeing we spent time visiting different Guiding units. We ran activities with Teddies, Brownies, Guides and Rangers as well as playing games. We visited three very different Guide units in South Africa but despite the obvious differences between them, all of the girls and Guiders were very proud to be part of such a huge organisation. I look back and I'm so happy that I was part of the beginning of such an exciting, worthwhile project. I'm proud to say I was part of the first stage of the LaSER and GGA Centenary project. Seeing the girls grow as individuals and as a team over the last 18 months has been immensely rewarding and has made all of the hard work and time involved in such a big trip worth it. To be doing the right thing as an individual was great but to be doing the right thing as part of a dedicated and enthusiastic team on behalf of so many others in Guiding was an incredibly amazing feeling.

— Hayley Cruikshank

358 SQUADRON ATC WELLING

Air Cadet George Wootten (17) has just completed a life long ambition to learn to fly, by completing the inaugural flying scholarship of the East Wickham and Welling War Memorial Trust (WMT).

Former Mayor of Bexley, Councillor Nigel Betts was instrumental in the modern foundation of the trust for the ongoing preservation of the memory of those East Wickham and Welling residents who gave their lives in the service of their country in the Great War, and in subsequent conflicts. They fund a Welling Air Cadet, to undertake the scholarship to preserve the link between the modern youth and the Royal Flying Corps.

Completed at the Air Cadet's flying school at Dundee, George went solo in under nine hours training. He was able fly around Ben Nevis the largest mountain in the British Isles, and said:

"Thank you for making a dream come true. I thoroughly enjoyed it, although the last solo had gusting winds, making the landing difficult."

Thankfully he successfully landed, and is now using Welling squadrons flight simulators to put his experience and knowledge to good use, by instructing junior cadets in flying. Squadron training officer Flight Lieutenant (Flt Lt) Dave Hill said:

"The annual flying scholarship that the WMT has instigated, for those air cadets who live in Welling, will allow cadets like George to fulfill their aspirations to fly, but who for various reasons would never be selected through the normal Air Cadet selection processes."

Welling squadron is open to children over 13 from the London Boroughs of Greenwich & Bexley, further details from www.358atc.uk.com.



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 15th March 2009. Many thanks to Iris who has supplied so many wordsearches over the years.

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

With all the hype about healthy living, this month's Wordsearch is all about fruit! Hidden within the grid are 24 types of fruit. They are:

APPLE • PEAR • PLUM • CHERRY • ORANGE • LEMON • LIME • BLUEBERRY • STRAWBERRY
 BANANA • APRICOT • RASPBERRY • GOOSEBERRY • GRAPE • GRAPEFRUIT • MELON • PEACH
 PINEAPPLE • PRUNES • WATERMELON • TANGERINE • BLACKBERRY • RAISIN • DATE

Name:

Address:

Youth Organisation:

