

# Shorts

January 12

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## A Blustery Day at Condovers

It has not been a good start to the year at Condovers, the strong winds we had have taken part of the veranda roof off outside Bison Lodge and about 10 trees have come down in the wooded area at the end of the field.

One of the panels off the roof was still in one piece and can be used again but the other was broken in half and as you can see the frame



has some damage.

The trees at the end of the field that came down need to be cut up and others need to be taken down because they have been made unsafe by the falling trees.



We are going to cut the trees up, keep the logs and bigger branches for fires and burn the rest to get rid of it because we still have a lot of the 4 Poplars that had to be taken down.

Sue Cole, Condovers Activity Centre

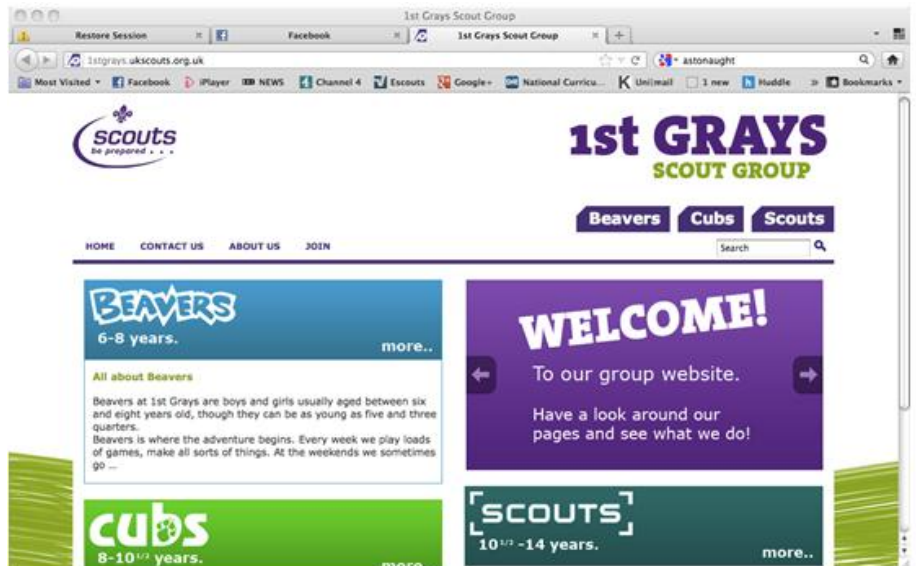
## Does your group have an effective website?

A website for your scout group can have loads of benefits, such as:

- Make your group visible to the general public so they can find out about your group.
- Provide a way for potential members to get in contact with the group.
- They can also provide a way for you to communicate with your existing parents/yp's through news, blogs during events, calendars of dates and more!

At the same time, a poorly designed website may put people off your group because it:

- May look out of date or doesn't appear to have been updated.
- Takes a long time to load, or doesn't show up properly.
- Irrelevant information, don't bombard people with information they don't need to know yet!
- May be hard to find? Can you search for it easily on Google?



The average user spends around 10-20 seconds on a website before deciding whether to exit or find out more, does your website create a good impression?

I have recently worked with 1st Grays to develop a website for their group. The website fits with the national scout branding look, gives simple information about the sections and a way to contact the leaders.

Once made the website is easy to update and maintain and leaders are able to add their own information or resources such as kit lists for camp.

Have a look yourself at: [www.1stgrays.ukscouts.org.uk](http://www.1stgrays.ukscouts.org.uk)

I can help your group create a website, or update an existing site. If you have any questions please email me at: [joe1107.lloyd@gmail.com](mailto:joe1107.lloyd@gmail.com)

Joe Lloyd

**ANNUAL ST. GEORGE'S DAY DINNER AND DANCE -  
FRIDAY APRIL 20th 2012.**

Our annual St. Georges Day extravaganza is fast approaching, so dust off your glad rags and polish your dancing shoes for another fun filled evening.

This year's event will follow the traditional format and again be held at The Thurrock Hotel, Ship Lane, Aveley, RM19 1YN

Ticket prices will be £28.00 which is a slight increase, but when you consider that this includes a three course meal, a disco till late and a raffle ticket, this is still very good value.

We have also been able to negotiate cheaper rates for hotel rooms, so if you wish to stay for the night rather than travel home (£58 single, £68 double room). You will need to book directly with the hotel on 01708 860222 or email to [sales@thurrockhotel.co.uk](mailto:sales@thurrockhotel.co.uk)

Details of the event plus a booking form were distributed to all GSL's by email and hard copies were placed in all the post boxes at the Alf Lowne Centre at the beginning of November.

Please make sure that details of your people coming to the Dance are provided along with a £10 deposit per person to Sue Puttnam, 3 Fielding Avenue, Tilbury, RM18 8JE by the **31st January 2012.**

To obtain your place you **must** pay the full balance to Sue at the above address by **5th March 2012.** If you miss this date attendance **cannot** be guaranteed and you may well be disappointed.

Thank you - Sue Puttnam & Ian Newell

**Starters**

Traditional Prawn Cocktail

or

Fan of Melon with Raspberry Coulis

(Vegetarian Alternative)

Served with a bread roll and butter

**Main Course**

Roast Topside of Beef and Yorkshire Pudding

or

Vegetable Lasagne served with a Leaf Salad

(Vegetarian Alternative)

Served with Roast Potatoes and Seasonal Vegetables

**Dessert**

Dutch Chunky Apple Flan with Custard or Cream

Tea/Coffee

Cheese Board

**Safeguarding Awareness Training**

We have booked the following Safeguarding Awareness Training sessions at the

Alf Lowne Scout Centre, Richmond Road, Grays. RM17 6DN on

Wednesday 8th February 2012

Wednesday 14th March 2012

Wednesday 2nd May 2012

Wednesday 20th June 2012

All 7:45 for 8:00pm start.

Please apply by Email only at [safeguarding.awareness@essexscouts.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding.awareness@essexscouts.org.uk) providing us with your preferred date/s, your Name, Membership number, Leader role, Group, District and Contact number. Spaces are limited to 25 per evening. Acceptance of an application will be confirmed.

We will hold a Waiting list: If any accepted applications are later cancelled we will contact others who have registered and interest to see if they can attend.

Applicants only need to attend one full Training session. They will start at 8:00pm promptly and last about 2 hours.

Safeguarding Awareness Team Essex Scouts

**Annual Capitation Fees for 2012**

The District Executive have approved the Finance Sub-Committee's recommendations that for the coming year the following charges be levied for the coming Financial year payable against recorded numbers at the January Census day evening 17/1/2012.

HQ is £20.50 (includes the 50p early payment discount)

County is £6.00

District is £3.80

Condoovers /

Cherrywood is £5.00

TOTAL £ 35.30 per member

The charges for facilities at both camp sites are still being considered by the relevant camp site committees to be recommended to the Finance sub committee in February for presentation to the March Exec.

In the past, the Finance sub com have only met once per year. As from February, they will meet quarterly. Hopefully we will be able to give more notice of changes in charges for the next year. Dave Gregory(Chair TDSC)

**BADGE**

**PRICES** - all badges which were priced at 57p (i.e. membership, challenge etc.) have risen to 58p the rest remain the same. Please remember you now need to either email or phone orders to me for badges (01375 891445) as badge tins will no longer be at the shop on a Saturday - orders received by me by lunchtime on a Friday will be at the shop on Saturday ready for collection and payment (provided they are in stock). If it is easier you are very welcome to call at my home to pick up badges - just check before you come please.

**SCOUT SHOP PRICES** - no actual uniforms have risen in price with the exception of leather goods - belts are now £9.50 (£12.50 for the xl/xxl) and gold embossed woggles are now £1.20 with the plaited ones £1. Waterproofs have risen a great deal and the price is now £45 with our price at £43.15 - a few souvenirs have risen in price but not very many. We continue to pass on a considerable saving on uniforms as well as earning money for the district.

**Directory Amendments**

PAGE	GROUP	DELETE/ ADD	NAME	POSITION	EMAIL
14	1st Ockendon	change	Paul Morton-Kemp	CSL	<a href="mailto:paulmortonkemp@lifelineprojects.co.uk">paulmortonkemp@lifelineprojects.co.uk</a>

PLEASE NOTIFY HEATHER BUTCHER OF ANY CHANGES TO DISTRICT DIRECTORY. You can contact her by email [heather.butcher1@homecall.co.uk](mailto:heather.butcher1@homecall.co.uk) or other contact details as on P 5 of the Directory.