

# Shorts

March 10

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To all my friends in Thurrock Scouting

I would like to thank you all for your kind messages, cards, wishes and flowers that I received during my period of illness. Also to those that visited me hospital and then when I returned home.

I have now been given the all clear and can now slowly get back to normal - I hope

Thank you all again

Daphne Gregory

## St George's Day Dinner and Dance 2010

Not booked your tickets for The Thurrock District Scouts St. Georges Dinner and Dance at Tilbury Community Centre, Civic Square, Tilbury on 23rd April 2010?

The original closing date for booking tickets has now passed, but if you haven't booked and would still like to go you need to speak to Sue Robinson on (01375) 409391 to book and have paid in full by 5th April 2010 at the very latest.

There will be NO scope for last minute bookings.

Tickets are £25 per head.

## Stride On 2010

Tickets are now on sale for this year's Thurrock Scout & Guide Gang Show at Thameside Theatre, Grays. The show will run nightly (7.15pm) from Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> April through to Saturday 1st May 2010 with an additional Matinee performance (2.15pm) on the Saturday.

Ticket prices:-

Wednesday to Saturday Matinee - Adult £9.00,  
Child/OAP £5.00  
Saturday Night - All Tickets 11.00

Group concessions are available. Tickets can be obtained from Lyn Rider (01375) 374081. Please book early to avoid disappointment.

## Indoor Games Competition

16 Packs attended this years Indoor Games afternoon at the Alf Lowne Scout Centre. The children spent the afternoon playing traditional board games such as Snakes and Ladders, Kerplunk, Jenga, Shove H'penny and Darts (there wasn't a Playstation on x-box in site!). The winners of the afternoon were Chadwell Bisons. Thanks goes to 7<sup>th</sup> Grays Cromwell and Orsett Leopards for organising the event.

## Beaver and Cub Link Day

Over 100 Beavers and Cubs joined together at Thriftwood Scout Campsite for a day of activities and fun last weekend. The site was very muddy which added to the atmosphere! During the day the children had a chance to take part in various activities including the Cresta Run, Demolition Derby, Archery, Climbing, Camp fire Cooking, Circus Skills, Pedal Cars, the Kave Maze, adventure playground and Crafts. They children were also given the challenge of making up their own group shout, some of which were very good and I know will continue to be used in Colony and pack meetings! At the end of the day one beaver said - 'This has been the best day of my life!'. I know everyone went home happy, muddy and tired but I'm sure the day was fit for purpose and will encourage older beavers to move on into Cubs. Special thanks go to Matt Wright for organising the fire lighting team and Edna Fox for the crafts. Here's looking forward to next years event!

Sue Rogers  
ADC Cubs

## Thameside Orion Pack Holiday

This year's pack holiday was once again held at Broadstone Warren with the theme of Circus. The weather was kind to us although we did experience all conditions including snow which only added to the atmosphere! The hall was made into our 'Big Top' and the pack spent the week taking part in site activities such as the coconut tree, pot holes, archery, grass sledging and Rifle shooting. They also made stilts and bagatells out of wood for their badge work, and took part in Rama's silly games and challenges which including a bungee rope run, popping balloons in clown shoes and custard pie throwing competition. Our camp strong man was Harry Beales who won the 'holding up the tin can competition and sitting up the wall competition. Each night the Cubs walked the tightrope before telling us what they had enjoyed that day and making their way to bed. One of the highlights of the week was when the Cubs put on their clown costumes they had made themselves to perform their Circus show for the site warden - its great when a plan comes together! Many thanks to all the Leaders for giving their time for the Cubs and to Jim Ridley (Grayswood) for cutting all our wood for us!

Thanks to a generous grant from Veolia ES Cleanaway Mardyke Trust, Thurrock Scouts now have a Mobile Climbing Tower. This is stored at Condovers Campsite and can be used onsite or moved to another location. The Tower has 4 belays so 25 to 30 people can climb the Tower per hour. The Tower is ideal for a Beaver Colony, Cub Pack or Scout Troop activity. There are some restrictions on height/weight which will be provided when making booking enquiries. Charges are being made for the use of the Tower to cover the annual maintenance and insurance. These start from £25 per hour, onsite at Condovers. Chris Travis is leading a team of people to make sure that the District has a fully trained up team for the operation of the Tower and all booking are managed through a single point.

**Full details are available from the booking team on:**

**Tel: 07813 095799**

**Email: [climbingtower@hotmail.com](mailto:climbingtower@hotmail.com)**

## **Monitoring Moving On Lists**

Following the presentation given at the February ICE meeting the Excel spreadsheet used by 7<sup>th</sup> Grays for monitoring the Moving On process between sections is available from Tim Webb ([tim@tawebb.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:tim@tawebb.freeserve.co.uk)). The spreadsheet allows you to take data from the HQ Census spreadsheet and then allows you to monitor when young people should be Moving On between sections. It can be used by anyone who is reasonably competent with Excel. The spreadsheet allows you to:

- Identify any who should be doing link or should have moved on
- Monitor numbers in each Section
- Allows planning of numbers in each Cub Pack by encouraging transfers to most appropriate Pack
- Allows you to identify future requirements - either too many or too few in each Section.

## Australian Jamboree 2010

While most of the District were coping with an Alaskan winter, a lucky twenty (4 Scouts, 6 Network and 10 leaders) were halfway round the world enjoying a lovely Australian summer. This is being in the right place at the right time! These members formed the official UK Contingent for the 22<sup>nd</sup> Australian Jamboree at Cataract Scout Park in Sydney. The guys and girls spent 23 days avoiding the snow and visiting many places.

Their first stop was the island city of Singapore staying in the Miramar hotel. They spent their short time there doing some cheap retail therapy and visiting the popular resort of Sentosa Island. From there the group moved to Sydney, staying at the Baden Powell Scout Centre, Pennant Hills. This is a lovely campsite to the north west of the city and is well situated for travelling into the city.

Sydney is the perfect place to see in the New Year with firework displays that are out of this world. The group were treated to two firework displays the first for the "children" in Darling Harbour in the late evening, and then the main display from Sydney Harbour Bridge. Network caught up with an old friend who works in the city and promptly received an invite to his office party. Luckily for them, the office overlooked the harbour so they had the perfect view of the fireworks.

The next two days were spent sightseeing around the city, focusing on Darling Harbour. During that time, the group visited Paddy's Market and had a rather eventful trip on the Harbour Jet.

Now it was time for the main attraction: the AJ2010 Jamboree. Four of the group decided to spend their time sightseeing, but the remaining sixteen packed up and readied themselves for ten days under canvas.

The camp was held at Cataract Park just outside the small town of Appin, which was about an hours travel to the south of Sydney. There were 12,700 scouts and leaders staying on the purpose built site and on Market Day the numbers were swelled by over 10,000 visitors.

Our four Scouts camped with some of the Victorian Contingent along with two of the leaders. The remaining ten were Service Leaders, working on various parts of the site including Skills Village, Cirque de Scout, International and Admin.

The group were invited to perform in the main arena on International Night and they duly obliged by singing the national anthem and then performing a completely unrehearsed rendition of Reach for the Stars, which went down very well with the Aussies.

There were many activities available on site and also four trips off site:-

Water activities - The perfect way to cool off on a hot summer day.

City tour - Discover one of the world's most famous cities.

Jamberoo Adventure Park - NSW's biggest fun park.

Endurance - A test of navigation skills and endurance by completing challenging activities spread through the bush

The Scouts would like to thank "Casper", the other Victorian leaders and scouts for making them so welcome.

After a busy and tiring Jamboree, the group reunited and flew up to Cairns for a few days relaxing before returning home to the UK, staying at the Cairns Colonial Club Hotel. There they visited Green Island, where they went snorkelling and scuba diving on the Great Barrier Reef. Four of the group also tried parasailing off the back of a motor boat. Later that evening the group went to the night zoo where the group met a number of nocturnal animals and even had the chance to feed and pet kangaroos.

The final full day was spent visiting "Tjapukai" an Aboriginal Cultural Park where they learnt about how Australia's indigenous people live. They even had the chance to throw spears and boomerangs.

The final activity was taking the Skyrail Rainforest Cableway for the 7.5km journey above the rain forest up to the town of Kuranda. The view from the cable car was awesome. At Kuranda they had the opportunity to hold a koala and feeding even more kangaroos. The return journey on the Kuranda Scenic Railway was spectacular, comprising of unsurpassed views of dense rainforest, steep ravines and picturesque waterfalls before alighting at Freshwater.

This was a trip of a lifetime for the Scouts. The group would like to express their thanks to Graham Monk for arranging and organising this fantastic trip.

Andrew Gilbey & Ian Newell - Tilbury Sea Scout Group



## Health & Safety

The Health & Safety questionnaire given out with the census has provided some interesting data, when reviewing in isolation you could be forgiven for thinking that the standard of health & safety in our groups is poor with a total of 71 accidents being recorded in their accident books over the last 12 months compared with 46 in the previous 12 months. However we take the opposite view and are very encouraged by this and take it as a sign that groups are taking health and safety very seriously and recording all accidents, even very minor ones. Some groups reported that they had no accidents at all recorded in the previous 12 months; we would like to remind you that all accidents that require any kind of treatment should be recorded.

We know that the accidents are minor because any accident occurring during a scout activity that requires treatment by a doctor, dentist or at a hospital must be reported to the District Commissioner and Headquarters and we have not had any reports over the last 12 months.

Unfortunately we cannot sit back and be pleased with ourselves; the next step needed is that every Group make health & safety the number one item on their agenda when they have their Group Council or Executive meetings. We suggest you take this time to check your accident book and for every entry consider whether it could have been prevented, could have been worse, do we need to make any changes, do we need to review our risk assessment and use it as a tool to drive down accidents.

Keep up the good work it is important to remember we seek to provide "Excitement but not Danger, Adventure but not Hazard"

Recommended reading - Scout Association Fact Sheet 320001 - What Price Accidents?

Thurrock Scouts Health and Safety Sub-Committee.

On Sunday 14th February the East Tilbury Group entertained the local senior citizens by providing an afternoon tea and entertainment. Beavers, Cubs and Scouts were waiters serving food and drink. Before tea two scouts played some music. Luke Parkinson played 3 pieces on his piano Accordion and Erin Raith played 2 pieces on his Violin with cd backing. Rob Sumsion and Richard Scruby GSL provided the rest of the entertainment playing various types of music mixing combinations of Banjo, Accordion, Mandolin and Guitars. The cubs and scouts also danced and sang with our guests. We had a free raffle for our guests. A great time was had by all and it was really appreciated by the local people. A great deal of work by Maureen Sumsion and Jan Wall helped by Jean Scruby went into providing a super buffet which completely went. It was a good way of mixing the children together and also thanking the local people who support our fund-raising during the year." Richard Scruby GLS