

iSHARE

Greater London South East
Scouts Newsletter

Issue 5
November 2013



www.glsescouts.org.uk

this issue...

**Bear in
the Air**

PLUS...

Campdowne 2013

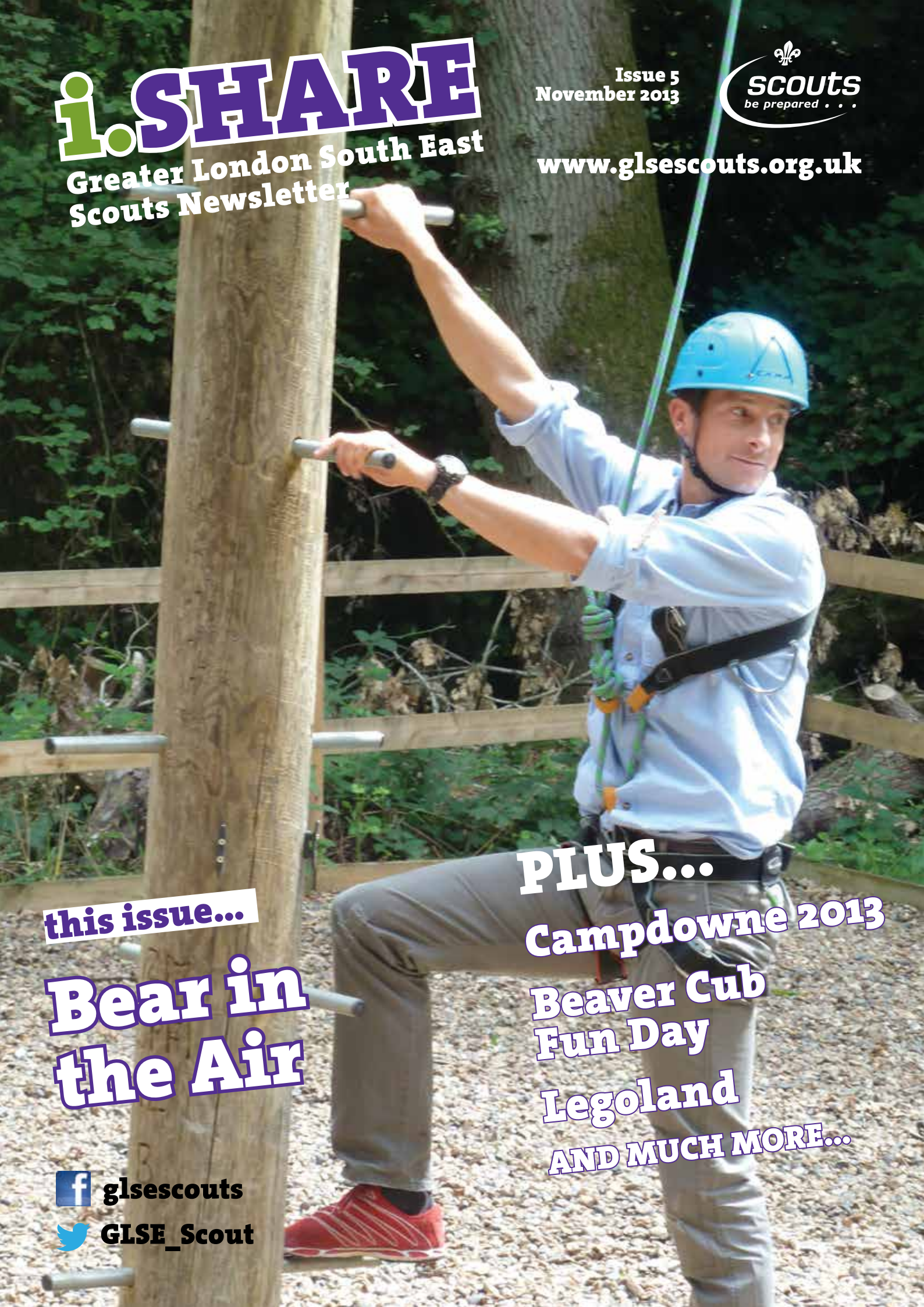
**Beaver Cub
Fun Day**

Legoland

AND MUCH MORE...

 **glscouts**

 **GLSE_Scout**





CC's Corner

The Curse of Hastings

Legend has it that if one does not leave Hastings before their 21st birthday, they're doomed to return and live there for the rest of their days...

I'm not sure I would put the reason I'm moving back to Sussex down to the curse, however, I am moving back to live there.

Therefore, I have advised HQ it is time to find a new County Commissioner for Greater London South East.

With my life circulating around Hastings more and more - I am finding I have less time and not as local to give to the role that it requires.

Across the last five and a half years, we have achieved a great deal and established, I hope, a robust support infrastructure. However, we still have a way to go to ensure the County is supporting the Districts to support the Groups effectively - without which we wouldn't have Scouting.

It has been an interesting role - and one that that I have enjoyed, which I hope has transpired through everything we have done. I'm not going to feel too guilty for deciding to retire, as I feel I have given this role everything during my time.

I will take this opportunity to thank the team for their dedication and commitment of 'making it happen' across Greater London South East. Scouting can only happen when everyone works together well - and the team does an incredible job.

The challenges we have overcome, as a volunteer force, across the last five and a half years are not to be underestimated and my thanks must be recorded to all of those who have played their part on the team during that

time. We couldn't have driven forward the support and activity provision without the first class team.

I must also thank each and every volunteer within the County, be that in a Group or District, for the part they play in 'making it happen' for their young people. The hard work and determination of leaders and supporters always amazes me when I'm visiting Groups and other activities. It is evident that the young people are enjoying their Scouting and that is down to everyone, no matter how big or small the contribution.

Dean Jeffreys, our Regional Commissioner, will write to us all in due course to advise of the process to appoint my successor. I will remain in post and perform the role to the fullest, until HQ has appointed and a handover has taken place.

As the Movement realises the current Vision Towards 2018 and the County, Districts and Groups pull together their plans to ensure Scouting develops and flourishes in our local communities, Greater London South East is in a better place - not from my contribution, but because of the hundreds and thousands of adult volunteers doing their best, every night of the week, for their young people.

I know Scouting within the County will continue to thrive - enjoy it!

Ben Richardson
County Commissioner



BE...
The Be... website has been launched! This is a dedicated site for young people to discuss and debate what @UKScouting should do over the next five years.

The Be... website:
<http://be.scouts.org.uk/>

The Future Of Scouting



The Community Impact Survey:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2JYB7Z8>

Are you aged 12 to 25, and a member of @UKScouting? We want to hear from you! Fill in our quick survey and you could win a cash prize of £500 for your Group / Unit!



14th World Scout Moot

14th World Scout Moot

by Tatjhana Whyte - "Tat"
who represented Greater London South East at the 14th World Scout Moot

Joining 120 other scouts from around the UK, last summer I embarked at the start of a memorable trip to Canada.

The first stop was Ottawa – experiencing for a few days its culture – and white water rafting! We then moved on to our campsite – beautiful, peaceful and surrounded by water. It had everything we needed – except flush toilets and hot showers. Despite this, my amazing multinational patrol

were the greatest people ever – we all made each other laugh despite some of the setbacks – the food was NOT good!

Whilst there, we had several days out – to Toronto where we did charity work for shelter box and then back to Ottawa where we did a memorable couch rally – where we had to carry a sofa around and take photos from our challenge sheet. We looked so stupid but it was a ball.





CAMPDOWNNE

INTERNATIONAL SCOUT AND GUIDE CAMP



Over 1,100 Scouts, Guides and leaders from all over the world enjoyed 10 days of challenge, excitement and adventure at Campdownne.

Participants travelled from as far as Nigeria and New Zealand to the carnival-themed camp at Downe Scout Activity Centre in Kent.

There was a wide range of adventurous activities on offer, including the centre's recently added high-ropes course, Jacob's Ladder and crate stack. In the beautiful setting of Bewl Water, Scouts from Egypt got stuck into dragon boat racing.

Chief Scout Bear Grylls and actor David Walliams visited Campdownne and tried some of the activities. David hit a bull's eye on his first attempt at archery whilst Bear took on the Jacob's Ladder. The pair, having taken to the stage, inspired the young people as they talked about the importance of Scouting.

300 visitors were welcomed to Campdownne on Sunday's Carnival Day. Cubs, Brownies, leaders and local councillors all had a taste of the brilliant atmosphere. The guests were encouraged to try a variety of activities, from Morris dancing to Nigerian jewellery making.

On Wednesday night a Mardi Gras parade took place complete with dancers, musicians, drummers and some amazing craft creations.

Another highlight was the 'Festival of Light and Dark' which featured a dance created and performed by Scouts and Guides.

Sightseeing trips to London and Brighton were also part of an action-packed ten days.

From the 7th Orpington Phoenix Explorers, Catie Owen commented *"It was the best 10 consecutive days of my life"* whilst Justin Mills said *"Only wish it could have lasted longer."*

Jon Rowson of Turnips Explorers Bromley, said his favourite moment was relaxing with everyone in Brighton and winning a small, pink, fluffy seahorse - promptly named Francis who soon became their mascot.

When asked to sum up Campdownne in three words, Catie, an Explorer, said: 'Friends, adventure and music.' Former Sea Scout David Walliams described the camp as 'joyful, noisy and fun.'

Without doubt, one of the most enjoyable things to do was try to communicate with our foreign friends, sharing activities and 10 days with them just made the camp experience so much richer. As we hopefully made clear from the sharing of our experiences, Campdownne 2013 was the highlight of all our summers, so we thank the organisers massively and hope to see you at the next one!

We are now embarking on our fourth year of participation in the Jack Petchey Achievement Award Scheme and again we have 117 awards to be given out across the County within the next few months.



If you are still unsure as to how the Scheme works, access the Jack Petchey Foundation website. The scheme recognises the achievements of our young people (11 – 25 years) at the same time entitling them to £200 to spend on celebrating their success! Trips to the theatre, ice skating, celebratory meals at camp – all have had the opportunity to enjoy many such outings as a result.

This year's recipients saw their achievements celebrated at the Award Ceremony held on 20th October at the Great Hall, Bromley Civic Centre. Again we enjoyed a memorable afternoon of entertainment which included performances by our own young people.

We were pleased to welcome Wayne Bulpitt, UK Chief Commissioner and the Deputy Mayor of Bromley among our guests.



We also saw presentations of the Leaders' Awards to Stuart Cosgrave and Nick White

BEXLEY DISTRICT

Harley Baker
Joel Banner
Daniel Bates
Christopher Boyce
Christopher Connor
Brasnell
Phoebe Cottam
Bethan Eastgate
Ryan Fox
Isabella Gammon
Conville
Saffron Hebouche
Nicola Imrie
Eilidh Kirkpatrick
Dan Laidlaw
Alex Matthey
Cody Mcnamara
Lennie Pearce
Alex Richards
Chloe Ridley
Kimberley Seamons
Megan Smith
Megan Shani Smith

Joanna Thorpe
Ellie Tobin
Sean Voice
Rhys Williams
Christopher Wood
Lynsey Yeomans

BROMLEY DISTRICT

Marco Arcuri
Matt Buchanan
Dave Buck
George Camacho
Owen Catie
Amelia Coombes
Katy Corner
James Daly
Craig D'Auvergne
Michael Gooch
Nick Greenwood
Dylan Hancock
Elliott Johnson
Michelle Johnson

Liam Kirk
Matthew Lofting
Zack McGrath
Samantha McMillan
Jack Moss
Leah Musto
Lily Nainggolan
Kai North
James Parkinson
Annie Parsons
Jonathan Pearmine
Charlie Penfold
James Penfold
Simon Pizer
William Pyle
Max Quinn
John Reid
James Russ
Chloe Stone
Jamie Swanborough
Harry Wiley

Nominations for the next round of Achievement Awards should be sent no later than 31st January 2014 for:-

Bexley District: Oscar Gould – jack.petchey@bexleyscouts.org.uk

Bromley District: Hannah Harvey – hannahharvey@ntlworld.com



Bexley District Camp



Unfavourable weather forecast did not deter more than 600 members from Bexley District to gather at Belchamps Activity Centre in Essex the last weekend in September – the first large event bringing together all four heritage districts with all sections represented.

Having enjoyed a campfire and disco on the Friday evening, Saturday dawned to a day full of both site based activities - archery, abseiling, rock climbing, pot holing, body zorbing and water zorbing as well as activities brought in especially for the day - laser paintball, clay pigeon shooting, zip wire, bungee running, bungee trampolining and quad bikes. In all there were 40 activities available all day which meant that everyone could have a go at whatever they wanted and most did. Even the weather stayed warm and dry all day.

Belchamps staff ensured that there was plenty to eat providing breakfast, lunch and dinner together with drinks and snacks throughout the day.

The evening saw everyone gathered once again in the camp fire circle where 3 Explorers were invested by the District Commissioner, Nick Crowe. Music and films were available for those who had the energy, with some members arranging their own wide games and entertainment before the close of the day with hot chocolate and hot dogs.

Sunday morning breakfast saw a lot of tired but enthusiastic younger members ready for their chosen activities including Its a Knock Out, mini Olympics, pioneering, bush craft, fencing and high ropes.

A very successful camp with request for “when is the next one?” being heard from all quarters.



Ahoy there Beavers on the hunt

In June a 100 strong band of Bromley district Beavers descended on 7th Petts Wood headquarters and Jubilee Park for a pirate hunt.

Having spent the morning with a 'training camp' - cannon ball firing, making treasure maps, flying pirate flags, finding hidden treasure and sailing ships, faces were painted and swords made - all in preparation to "think Pirate".

After lunch the beavers were ready with their maps, bandanas and swords to hunt

the pirates hidden in Jubilee Park where the beavers made light work of chasing down the unsuspecting pirates to claim their bounty! The day finished with a pirate sing along. All the beavers had a fantastic time and when asked about their day they replied

"I had a great day and I really don't want to go home"

Charlie 1st Cray Valley aged 6.

Canada 2014



The GLSE Scouts Canada Explorer Belt Expedition team would like to extend their thanks to all who helped make the day such a success.

fundays

Spring into summer!

<http://fundays.scouts.org.uk/>

Orpington Beavers have New Experiences at Scouting Fun Days

Orpington Beavers have become so popular that they have now had to be split into two units. They all took part in climbing activities for the first time.

Alfie Harris, 6 thought that the climbing course was *"Very cool and I only get to do things like this in Beavers."* Riley Osborne-Baseby, 7 said that *"It wasn't scary and was fun and brilliant"*.

The 7th Orpington Beavers attended the Scouting Association Beaver and Scout Fun Day at Gilwell Park, Chingford; the home of UK Scouting.

There were 8,000 participants at the event, which was the largest event open to younger members of the Scout and Guide movements in the UK featuring groups from as far afield as Northumberland to Folkestone. There were over 100 adventurous activities from abseiling to zip wire.

Timandra Burford, the Beaver Group Leader, originally became a Leader when her son wanted to join Cubs, said that *"Coming to Gilwell is so much fun and the Beavers get new opportunities here that they don't get anywhere else. The unit really looks forward to coming to the event each year"*.



MESH IX

This being the second MESH I have attended since becoming an Explorer Scout, I think it was the best one! The theme this year was Pirates and, although some of us explorers may not have seemed too enthusiastic about dressing up, that cannot be said about the leaders.

Separated into about ten teams we all had to compete to win points in each activity, whichever team won at the end of the weekend got the 'Treasure'.

Every activity (and there were many) were all pirate based - or at the very least - had a 'pirate' running them, ranging from sword fighting and Pirate movies to headscarf designs and human Piratemids. The whole weekend was full, as were we after the massive group BBQ on Saturday night.

A big Thanks to all involved in MESH 2013 - cannot wait till next year!

James Pepperjack - Titan Air Explorer Scouts



WWW.MESHCAMPS.ORG.UK



533 – a very significant number – read on !

The 22nd Bromley Scout Troop is always up for a challenge and 2012 saw the return of a challenge completed in 2009 - 12 camps in 12 months!

January – a relaxing camp at our HQ.

February – a 6 mile night hike with temperatures of - 3°C

March – an activity packed weekend at Frylands Wood – temperature reaching 18°C



April – camping at Carroty Wood where we entered two teams in the Bromley District 'Scouts of Steel' competition; our Under 14 team came a very impressive 2nd place.

May – Waylands, a local campsite - the weekend was spent exploring, wide games and lots of fun.

June – our first Family Camp with 20 families taking part in a two night camp. For a lot of mums and dads it was their first night under canvas! It was a fun packed weekend with bouncy castles, an aerial runway, slippery slope, and a chance to try out backwards cooking!



July – our week long Summer Camp, at Blackland Farm with our own version of the Olympics.

August – camp was back at our HQ, a weekend of hard work clearing an area to set up a camp fire circle.



September – a weekend of water fights on the beach at Polzeath in Cornwall where we all turned into surfer dudes for the weekend! spending hours in the sea surfing and body boarding.

October – Film Club camp with a total of five films being watched during the weekend.



November – the most memorable - a ten hour journey to Ouistreham in Normandy France. As it was Remembrance Weekend we spent time at Pegasus Bridge, Omaha Beach and the American Cemetery. On the Sunday we attended a service at a British Cemetery which was a very touching bi-lingual service and, after the service had taken place, an elderly gentleman asked our Scouts if they would do him the honour of forming a Guard of Honour as he laid a wreath at his brother's grave.



December – the camp to end all camps! 36 hours in Portugal! Up early at 3.30am ready to catch a flight to Faro, we were at the campsite by 11am and off into town for lunch! A great fun weekend full of dancing till the early hours.

12 camps was a great challenge to have completed and lots of fun was had by all the Scouts and by the leaders, roll on 2015 and our 3rd attempt at the challenge!!

Total number of nights away gained by the 22nd Bromley Scouts in 2012 = 533



Our adventure to Legoland



One very early Friday morning in August saw 42 Cubs and their leaders board coaches en route to Legoland Germany. 17 hours later we finally arrive at our hotel in Ulm in time for dinner. Our hotel was fantastic and I shared a room with 3 other Cubs.

The following day our coach took us to Legoland where we enjoyed some fantastic but scary rides! We visited Miniland and the Star Wars shop but my favourite was the Driving School where - having got our own driving licence - we drove Lego cars round the track.

Returning the following morning, the rain did not stop us enjoying more rides and in the afternoon we went to the CamboMare water park.

After two fantastic days at Legoland our coach journey home seemed a lot quicker – some of us even managed to sleep.

My thanks to all the leaders who gave us such a memorable experience and a trip I will remember for ever.

By Sebastian Barker (3rd Orpington Cubs)



Holland Expedition 2013



Have you ever abseiled from a B747, or gone sailing on a boat designed for Dutch sea scouts? Have you honoured our 1944 heroes that fought alongside the Dutch? Have you cycled in a nature reserve and seen a dolphin show only rivalled in the States? Yes? You must have been part of the Holland Expedition 2013!!!

GLSE Scouts and Explorers have recently enjoyed the hospitality provided by Dutch Scouts during a most enjoyable stay at their campsite.

The first full day began with a visit to the Airborne Museum in Oosterbeek and the subsequent walk to the War Cemetery was an impromptu follow on. The afternoon was spent cycling at the Hoge Veluwe nature reserve - some of the scouts remarked on the sense of freedom being able to cycle literally in the most beautiful nature reserve in The Netherlands.

The fine weather on the following day ensured a great day for sailing but also

left some time for shopping in a local outlet centre. That evening ended with a great campfire and an introduction to some Dutch campfire songs.

The next day everyone was able to enjoy the facilities of the great national site Buitenzorg, including painting clogs, leather and woodwork. An exciting visit to the Dutch national air museum 'Aviodrome' followed which included abseiling from a B747!!!

The final day was reserved for shopping and a visit to the Harderwijk Dolphinarium which ended up with all day spent there - the shows were great, exciting and are only rivalled in the USA.



Did we enjoy it? You bet!!!

Most heard remark: "When are we going back???"



Our very own ACTIVE Beavers

Having collected Sainsbury's active kids vouchers for many years and, in the process acquiring some fantastic sports equipment, the 5th Bexleyheath Beaver Scouts took part in the 6 week Active Kids Challenge where they learnt about the benefits of healthy eating, doing skills exercises, an obstacle course and completed a one minute challenge.

Having accomplished these challenges they were able to enter the competition – and WON!! – an opportunity to take part in a special Sainsbury's Active Kids training session at Lee Valley Athletics Centre.

As a result, in early October, five beavers scouts were among the 170 young people welcomed by David Beckham and Ellie Simmonds to a special Active Kids training session at Lee Valley Athletics centre. The Beavers were all very excited and were delighted to have the chance to talk with both David and Ellie, have their photo taken with them and then presented them with a 5th Bexleyheath scarf. Having competed in the games they then prepared their own healthy lunch.

Six-year-old Oliver said: *"It was the best day of my life, Ellie Simmonds has the biggest smile in the world and David Beckham is a very nice man."*

At the end of the day, the boys were presented with a fantastic goodie bag containing a ball, books, bat and ball game and a signed photograph of what proved to be a very memorable day.

SCOUTS SPEAK UP TRAINING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE -

Gilwell Park, London

Saturday 1 March – Sunday 2 March 2014



Are your Explorers outspoken and passionate about Scouting? Born to be in front of the camera? Or just interested in media and broadcast journalism?

Free Scouts Speak Up media training can help them become young spokespeople and spread Scouting's positive message.

For more details:- <http://scouts.org.uk/events/march-2014/scouts-speak-up-training-for-young-people/>

To Book:- <http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/1412617/Scouts-Speak-Up-Gilwell-Park-1-to-2-March-2014>