

Boyne Hill Bugle

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Newsletter of the Boyne Hill Altwood Scout Group

April 2012 Issue 8

Visit our website: www.bhascouts.org.uk

Diary Dates

Date(s)	Event	Beavers	Cubs	Scouts	Explorers	Group
14/01/2012	District Swimming Gala		x			
20/01/2012	Maidenhead Archery Competition				x	
29/01/2012	BHA Table Top Sale					x
05/02/2012	District Explorer Monopoly Run				x	
25/02/2012	District Beaveriee	x				
25/02/2-12	Bag Packing at Sainsburys, Maidenhead					x
26/02/2012	BHA Table Top Sale					x
17/03/2012	District Six a Side Football		x			
25/03/2012	District Flag Competition		x			
09/04/2012	Bag Packing at Homebase, Maidenhead			x	x	
14/04/2012	Queen's Diamond Jubilee Event - Three Towers Hike			x	x	
22/04/2012	District Football Competition			x		
29/04/2012	District St George's Event					x
23/06/2012	District Water Activity Day		x			
24/06/2012	District Water Activity Day			x		
08/07/2012	Maidenhead Explorer Cardboard Boat Race (Odney)				x	
04-11/08/2012	Summer Holiday at Ross y Gwalia				x	
30/09/2012	County Fun Day	x	x			
10/11/2012	District CHEF Cooking Competition			x		
11/11/2012	District Remembrance Sunday Parade					x
16 & 17/11/2012	District Incident Night Hike			x	x	

Fundraising

Please ask friends and family to donate Sainsburys and Tesco club card vouchers. Give them to your Section Leader at your weekly meeting as soon as you can.

Table Top Sales in January and February 2012 raised £199.34 and £160.00 respectively. Another session of bag packing at Sainsbury's, Maidenhead on 25th February increased our funds by approximately £200 (£200 also went to Sainsbury's Sports Relief). Many thanks to Paul Tisdale, Explorer Parent and member of Group Executive Committee for organising this.

After three years Lisa has stepped down from organising the Table Top Sales and is asking for a parent or group of parents to take over the organisation of this fundraising event from September 2012. Can all Sections please encourage parents to step forward? On average each Table Top Sale raises £200 for the Group – this money helps to reduce the cost to parents for the children's activities i.e. camps, outings and transport. THE GROUP NEEDS YOU HELP to continue this benefit.

Scouts and Explorers packed bags again at Homebase in Maidenhead on 9th April raised £303.65 (£61 will go to Homebase' designated charity, Teenage Cancer Trust and the remaining £242.65 to our Group funds). Our appreciation goes to everyone who gave up their weekend to help and a HUGE thank you to Homebase for allowing BHA to fundraise at their store.

Maidenhead Carnival this year will be slightly different. Lisa has arranged to borrow a coconut shy. Adam Palethorpe, Assistant Beaver Scout Leader is trying to arrange for Budgens to donate the coconuts; if he is unable to achieve this we will be asking all families within the Group to donate one or two each please. We will keep you informed.



Beaver News

Since Christmas the colony has increased in numbers. There are now 12 invested Beavers and 10 Kitts, another starting on the 23rd April and a waiting list of 4 with young people who are not quite old enough. On a sad for us but Well done to the Beaver/s note we have 1 Beaver swimming up to Cubs this month and another 2 due to swim up in May.

BHA Beavers attended the Beaveree they Raised £114.30 for Sportsable formerly W.A.M.S.A.D by filling a match box each with as many different items as they could and collecting sponsorship money from family and friends.



Mother's Day Cards, Easter Cards and Easter Nests (melted chocolate mixed with crumbled shredded wheat, placed into a plastic bowl and decorated with different coloured/flavoured chocolate Eggs) were made before the end of the term and some of the Beavers ate their nests on the way out of the door.

Some of the Beavers are off to Odds Farm for the day in April and we hope to have some Photos for the next issue of the bugle.

Several different kinds of games, including N.E.S.W, What's the time Mr Wolfe?, Sea Rescue (using crates to get from one side of the room to the other without touching the floor and collecting the stranded person), Jumping Beans, Beaver made Floor Snakes and Ladders and many others, have been played.



Cub News

We currently have 17 cubs at present. Sam Crowhurst and Corey Gratton have stepped over to Scouts and were invested on 2nd February 2012.

Since the last Bugle, we have made a video recording promoting scouting where all the cubs took part – final recording to be edited and release on You tube so that we will all be celebrities!

Over a period of a few weeks, the cubs set out and made bird boxes which were very successful – thanks go to Allan Brown and the parents who came along to assist. B & Q were very helpful with the purchase and cutting of the wood required. With Allan's help again, all the cubs managed to wire a plus and were awarded their DIY badge. During one of their meeting the Cubs made Mother's Day cards too.



A lot of work was done towards the Flag Competition by having bases covering basic first aid, flags and saints, tracking, road signs and finished off by everyone cooking and tossing their own pancake. Allan also came up to the Scout Hut and went through some basic knotting skills which they all enjoyed.



We put a team of 7 into the District football competition held at Wessex School and although we did not win overall, the cubs had a really good afternoon.

A group of Cubs entered the Cubs District Swimming Gala on 14th January at the Magnet Leisure Centre. Quinn Hobson came 1st in the final of the under 9 1/4 age breast stroke, Joe Tarbit came 1st in the final of under 9 1/4 back stroke and also 1st in the under 9 1/4 freestyle final. William Morrison came 2nd in the under 9 1/4 age backstroke final. Quinn, Joe and William came 1st in the medley relay final, and Bailey Knott, Jake Streatfield and Sam Crowhurst came 3rd in the freestyle relay final.

All points added, meant that Joe came 2nd overall, and our pack also came 2nd overall. Brilliant result.



We entered a team for the District flag competition and Allan helped build the obstacle course at the back of the hall for one of the bases. Other bases included knots, mapping, tracking, quiz, road signs and games outside. All had a brilliant time, including a hula hoop event at the end organised by Mark where our cubs were still going when all others had stopped.



Various badges have been achieved including swimming, hobbies and various challenge badges. Before Sam Crowhurst went up to Scouts, he achieved all his remaining challenge badges and was presented with his Chief Scout Silver Award. Well done Sam.

Thanks go to all those parents who helped with the DIY badge, Scout Leader, David Weeks for staying to help on cub nights and to Explorer, Sam Tisdale who helps every week.



Last term was a funny one with lots of coming and goings alas we said good bye to Oli Noyes and Alex Doling as they made their way up to explorers and we wish them all the best in all the challenges that lay before them.

We have welcomed Chris Hoare in as are new assistant scout leader and Ali Clarke as sectional assistant

At the moment the Scout pack stands at 17.

This term we have covered a wide variety of badge from D.I.Y badge to the community challenge badge which will hopefully lead to all of the scouts getting there gold award.



Scouts have made pancakes even though it was a couple of days after Pancake Day which was great fun and the Scouts really enjoyed themselves.

They have had a visit from the local police officer to have a chat about knife crime and the community. While all the snow was falling we decided to do a little fire lighting challenge outside where the Scouts had to light the fire and melt some snow which was great fun.

We had a night of knots in a fun way where the Scouts had to build stretchers which ended with a stretcher race.

During this term the Scouts will be working on the Small Holder activity badge, which will involve them growing tomato plants.

They will also be running a games night up at the thicket which was moved due to very poor weather from last terms planned activities.

We end this section report on a bit of a beg as you now we run table top sales from October to February we are looking for some parents from Scouts to take over the running of these as Lisa and Jason have run them for the last 3 years. The Sales are held once a month at the end of each month on a Sunday except for December for 4 hours. A lot of the activities we do are funded by the table top sale so if you are interested contact either of the Scout Leaders and we will take it from there.



Scorpion Explorer News

On 20th January Boyne Hill Altwood spent a busy Friday night hosting the District Archery Competition at our Scout Hut. It was a lively event as nearly 50 Explorers took part from 6 Groups. Scorpions came in 2nd place only narrowly missing out on first place. Well done to Lisa and Jason for all their hard work in preparing for another successful event.



Maidenhead District Explorer Scout Monopoly Run 2012 took place on a wet Sunday 5th February. Six teams of 3 or more Explorers took part. BHA entered two teams who finished in very respectable 2nd and 3rd places. The Cookham team came 1st - Congratulations to them.



A variety of activities have been reported since our last Bugle. On Friday 27th January Explorers visited the Marlow Gun Club; Tuesday 7th February - Riina Takano (Explorer) arranged an origami evening for Chinese New Year. A session of pancake making was held on 21st February, an evening gutting, preparing, cooking and eating wild rabbits and pigeons. It was very messy but great fun. At another session, District loaned Scorpions equipment to have an evening learning circus skills and curling. And in March, wide games at the Maidenhead Thicket were great fun.



Three Explorers, Calum Wilson, Paul Hutchinson and Hiroki Takano took part in Endurance 80. Endurance80 is a 24 hour hike covering 50 miles cross country from Great Missenden and returning to Great Missenden. Some people run it, most people walk it. Unfortunately, none of our three managed to complete this but they all did amazingly well. Full marks for to them for effort.

A District Shooting Competition was held at our HQ at the beginning of March, Scorpions came in 3rd place.

Over the past few months Scorpions have spent Thursday evening doing food stacking and packing for the homeless. This involves sorting and stacking donated food so that pickers can come in and bag up food parcels for low income families, shelters and the homeless.



Calum Wilson, Paul Hutchison and Sam Tisdale took part in the 45k Three Towers Hike around the South Downs. They represented the Scorpions in the event and all did an amazing job. Unfortunately, Sam fell poorly half way and had to pull-out but showed amazing courage to get where he did, so well done Sam!

Calum and Paul then had to join another explorer team, who were from Caversham Sea Scouts. One of their guys also dropped out so they made a team of four.

They managed to complete the event in a very speedy time of eight and a half hours and were the fastest to complete the route. Unfortunately, as they were two teams combined they weren't able to collect the first place trophy. Even though, their time beat the group that won the trophy. We are so proud of all of them. Well done guys. You are all winners.

Calum and Paul received an Easter egg, certificate and a Queen's Jubilee Medal for participating. This is the third year Scorpions have taken part and this was the best year yet.



Group News

Congratulations to Allan Brown our Vice President on his 80th birthday. He held a party on his actual birthday Easter Sunday 8th April, at Scout HQ. The hall was decorated with banners and balloons on the tables, and all round the hall there were various selection of photos, starting with Allan at an early age, through scouting, his and his family marriages, holidays and up to recent photos of all his friends. Allan was joined by his children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and one new addition - a great great grandson, making five generations!

Music and dancing was enjoyed by all, and a wonderful range of food was provided for all his guests.

A wonderful cake was made and decorated by his daughter Val in a traditional camping theme with Allan asleep inside the tent. His son Andrew made a wonderful speech, followed by a big thank you speech from Allan.



We would like to welcome a new Section Leader and a member to the Group Executive Committee:-

- *Assistant Cub Scout Leader*, Chris Hoare
- *Group Secretary*, Margarita Reid

As the HRH the Duchess of Cambridge becomes Scouting's newest volunteer, BHA are still looking for volunteers:

Leaders

- Scout Leader
- Assistant Cub Scout Leader
- Group Scout Leader

Grouped Executive Committee

- Chairman
- Treasurer (current Treasurer stepping down at the AGM)
- Any parent wishing to join

Group Subscriptions 2012

A gentle reminder to those who still owe their 2012 Group Subscriptions – *they are overdue now*. Please hand to your Section Leader as soon as possible.

Fees as follows:-

One member – £78 (£73) / Two members – £109 (£99) / Three members – £140 (£125)

Alternatively, you may pay three termly instalments of £26 for 1 child, £36.33 for 2 children and £46.67 for 3 children (no reduction).

You may pay by cash, cheque (payable to Boyne Hill Altwood Scout Group) or via your internet banking using the following details:-

Account Name:	BHA Scout Group	Account no:	00069998
Sort Code:	30-95-36	Reference:	Subs 2012

If you use this method, please still return the slip below to your Section Leader to confirm that you have paid using internet banking.

Remember, we are a GIFT AID Group; please complete the Gift Aid declaration form below to allow us to reclaim your tax on your payment.

Group Executive Committee Meeting

All aspects of running our Scout Group are discussed at these meetings. If you wish to become a Parent on the Executive Group Committee or apply for position of Chairman or Treasurer then please contact your child's Section Leader. Date for the next meeting is **Monday 14th May commencing at 7:15pm upstairs in the Scout Hut.**

100 Club

We currently have 29 members in our 100 Club and would like to increase the numbers - if you would like to join please contact your Section Leader for an application form. The more members the more the winner receives. Half the money goes into BHA funds and half in the members draw. Recent winners: November - Allan Brown; December – Christine Cooper; January – David London; February – Mr. Britten; March – Maureen Bateman.

Scout Shop Duty Rota

Jane Walsh, an Explorer Scout's mum, has volunteered to cover our shifts this year. Any other offers of help would be appreciated for next year. It is not an arduous task, just two hours on a Thursday evening 7pm – 9pm three/four times a year. BHA remaining shift dates are – 14th June and 18th October 2012.

Maidenhead Scout Shop, 19th Maidenhead Scout Hut (back of Magnet Leisure Centre), Holmanleaze, Maidenhead SL6 8AW – open on a Thursday evening (term times only) 7pm – 9pm.

Profile of a Group Member



Hi, My Name is Maria Hodge, I am married to Tom and we have three children. Our Eldest son is nearly nineteen and is currently at University, our younger son is fourteen and still at school, and our daughter is eleven and also still at school.

I was born in Taplow in 1973 and have spent most of my life, living in or around Maidenhead. I left school at sixteen after completing my GCSE's and went straight into retail work, when the shop I worked at closed down, I tried my hand at security, decided it was not for me and went to Rover as a delivery driver, which is where I met my husband. Since then I have enjoyed work at R.B.W.M and a local retail company, however I am currently at home full time. My favourite things to do are spending time with my family, friends, socialising, reading and most of all theme parks, I have been to most of the theme parks in this country and one in Spain, luckily for me my husband and children enjoy them too.

A few years ago our younger son started at Boyne Hill Altwood as a Scout, and shortly after our daughter joined the Cubs, of course our son is now on his way to becoming an Explorer and our daughter is now a Scout, they have both gained so much from the Scouts Association, both have a great time at the meetings and have a good deal more confidence in themselves.

At the time they started I didn't realize that the Beaver Scouts, Cub Scouts, Scouts and Explorers etc are all run by volunteers and when I was asked if I would like to become a member of the executive committee, I felt it would give me a chance to give something back for the things my children had gained. Shortly after joining I heard that more help was needed and felt I may be able to give more than the time I was giving so offered to become a Leader. Since then I have been taught a lot of new things and am currently, with help from our Assistant Beaver Scout Leaders Matt (Twizzle) and Adam (Kitt) and Sandy (Baloo) our Assistant Cub Scout Leader, running Boyne Hill Altwood Beaver Colony, and I am now known as Hawk Eye.

The Scout Association is a wonderful thing to be involved in whether as a Scout, Cub, Beaver, Explorer, Executive Member, Helper or Leader and we hope you will find it is too.

Maria