

Boyne Hill Bugle

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Newsletter of the Boyne Hill Altwood Scout Group

January 2012 Issue 7

Visit our website: www.bhascouts.org.uk

HAPPY NEW YEAR

We start the year with very sad news.

Dennis Bateman, one of our Joint Vice Presidents passed away on December 30th losing his fight against prostate cancer.

Dennis had been involved in BHA Scout group since 1968 and will be sorely missed.

Our thoughts are with his wife, Maureen and his family at this difficult time.

His funeral was held at Slough Crematorium on Friday 13th January and was well attended by his Scouting friends.

A donation was sent to Cancer Research on behalf of BHA Scout Group



Diary Dates

Date(s)	Event	Beavers	Cubs	Scouts	Explorers	Group
06-08/01/2012	Gillwell Winter Camp				x	
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 Beaverie	x				
26/02/2012	BHA Table Top Sale					x
03/03/2012	District Cross Country Competition			x		
17/03/2012	District Six a Side Football		x			
25/03/2012	District Flag Competition		x			
14/04/2012	Queen's Diamond Jubilee Event - 2012 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		
04-11/08/2012	Summer Holiday at Ross y Gwalia				x	
30/09/2012	County Fun Day	x	x			
07/10/2012	District Cycle Orienteering Event			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

Table Top Sales in October and November 2011 raised £204.00 and £240.00 respectively. November's sale was a sell out - we even had to turn sellers away. A massive THANK YOU to all the parents who help with these sales and also to the mum's who make delicious cakes to sell. The next two Sales will be on 29th January and 26th February - please contact Lisa on 0777592 0416 to offer your assistance e.g. helping set up, donating items, manning stall, making a cake, serving refreshments, clearing away.

We really need a parent or group of parents to take over the Table Top Sales. These Sales are becoming too much for Lisa to deal with on her own. Can all Sections please encourage parents to step forward to take over the running of these important fundraising Sales? 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 your help to continue this benefit. If volunteers aren't forthcoming it will not be possible to carry on holding them so regularly which will reduce funds available.

The Chocoholic sale competition wasn't as well supported as last year, only £50 was earned for the Group. Thanks go to ex Explorer mum, Wendy Hill for organising this again for us. Explorer, Stephen Proffitt won the competition for raising the most orders.



Bag packing at Homebase in Maidenhead was a huge success. Thanks go to new Assistant Scout Leader, David Weeks for organising this event on weekend of 17th & 18th December – a massive £825.93 was collected. 20% of this went to the Teenage Cancer Trust and the rest to our Group. 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.

BHA Scout Group was presented with a cheque for £95.91 – 50% of the sponsorship raised from the FunRun organised by Lions Club at Braywick Park on Saturday 24th September.



Beaver News

We have two new leaders for the Beaver section – Maria Hodge as Beaver Leader and Adam Palethorpe as Assistant Beaver Leader – welcome aboard to both of them.

There are currently 5 Beavers. Explorers and Beaver helpers, Calum and Paul have shown Beavers how to make bricks using a method shown to them in Uganda. Other activities include junk craft, working towards the District Craft competition which was held in November. Christopher Wheeler came 1st for his entry of Olympic Stadium and Max Baker won 3rd place for his entry. All have achieved their Safety badge by learning the green cross code, water safety and safety in the home. Creative badges were awarded last term and Max Baker did work at home to achieve his Imagination and Experiment badges.

Beavers were invited along to Cub camp at Bears Rail for the afternoon of Saturday 17th September. Due to other commitments only one could attend but he joined his older brother in activities and walking to the Copper Horse.

Maddie Blunden joined the group who took part in the FunRun organised by the Lions Club at Braywick Park.



On 31st October the Beavers held a joint Halloween party with the Cubs, made pumpkin lamps, did apple bobbing, made an Explorer Scout into a mummy using toilet rolls and handed out treat bags made at an earlier session. Most of the Beavers and Cubs wore fancy dress.



An evening spent making large poster for Christmas



Beavers and Cubs helping with bag packing at Homebase, Maidenhead



Cub News

We currently have 17 cubs – including 4 new recruits. Cubs have been working to achieve their challenge badges. One evening was spent preparing for Cub camp, learning how to pack a rucksack and put up a tent. Parents attended a meeting to discuss the camp schedule and help compile a menu. Another session Cubs worked towards their astronomer's badge. During October Cubs met in Cannon Lane and spent the evening in Maidenhead Thicket with torches, laying and following tracking signs.



The weather was very good on the weekend 16th-18th September at Bears Rail for the Cub Camp. 9 Cubs attended with 3 Scout helpers. The theme was astronomy - tents were named after planets. Activities undertaken were gadget making, cooking lunch over fires, walking to the Copper Horse, wide games and a joint camp fire evening with groups on site. All cubs helped take down tents and pack their kit for return to the HQ on Sunday afternoon. Emily Hodge and Sam Crowhurst were the best Cub attributes and were each given a gift.



Andy, Julie, their children, Mark Blunden and his children, Cub Ethan and Beaver Maddie and Sandy all had great fun running and raising money for our Scout Group at the FunRun organised by Lions Club at Braywick Park on Saturday 24th September. Sandy was presented with the George Walker Cup on December 21st for collecting the highest number of sponsors. As a result BHA received a cheque for £95.51 (50% of her sponsorship money). The other 50% went to People to Places (Lions Clubs chosen charity).

Oliver Croker and Sam Crowhurst played 4 games each against other cub packs during the Cubs District Chess competition but did not make the finals. Emily Hodge, Jake Cooper, Oliver Croker and Sam Crowhurst attended the Cubs District Sixers Challenge. They had fun and games, including putting their feet in cold custard, making fires and cooking their own lunches. They all made chariots which they used for races at the end of the day.



Cubs said goodbye to Andy and Julie (Assistant Cub Leaders) the week prior to October half-term. Allan Brown presented them with gifts and thanked them for their contribution to the Group.

We would like to welcome Mark Blunden as our new Cub Leader – he joined us after October half term.



To finish the year, Beavers and Cubs had a combined Christmas party on the Sunday (18th) at HQ. Lots of fun was had playing games and eating party food provided by parents.



Scout News

A big thank you goes to both Lisa and Jason Salway for all their commitment to running the Scout section (as well as the Explorers) for the past two years.

We would like to welcome David Weeks as Assistant Scout Leader – he joined BHA after half term.

At the beginning of this term Scouts worked towards the Africa challenge badge – this has now been completed. To achieve this they had different and fun evenings. One evening they built models of mud huts, thankfully built out of paper and not mud. I don't think Altwood School would have been happy if they had twelve mud huts across their playing field. On other evenings they made African masks – these can be seen hanging on the wall leading upstairs and cooked sweet potato using clay bricks, eating possu (native dish).



Prior to the Night Hike they had a practice evening. This year the Night Hike was held Friday 18th November night/Saturday 19th early a.m. Fortunately, the weather was very kind which made the event more enjoyable. Boyne Hill Altwood came in second place just a few points behind the 21st Scout Group. Well done to all who took part.

Scouts took part in the bag packing weekend at Home Base in Maidenhead. A massive £671.87 was raised towards Group funds.

The Scouts Christmas party was at Ten Pin in Maidenhead. They enjoyed an evening of bowling and laser quest – which was a nice way to wind down to the Christmas period.



We would be grateful for any parents to help out on Scout evenings – even if you can give only one evening a month it would be much appreciated. If volunteers aren't forthcoming we will have to organise a parent rota. Please speak to David Weeks if you are able to assist.



Scorpion Explorer News

There are currently 10 Explorers in the unit. Two new Explorers joined the Group from the Scout section – James Walsh and Jack Salway. James completed his Scouts Gold Award just prior to joining Explorers – well done James.

A few Explorers attended a kayaking evening on 13th September at Longridge, many thanks to Nicolette Smith for organising this on their behalf.



The incident night hike challenge around Maidenhead and Marlow took place on night of 18th November. Scorpions had two teams, Butcher's boys, led by Calum Wilson which came first; the second team led by Sam Tisdale came 8th. Well done boys. Butcher and Lisa along with the help of Explorer Stephen Proffitt spent a long night running a base for the event doing fire lighting.

Over the last few months Scorpions have spent every 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. They will continue to support this charity on a monthly basis. Tuesday night activities include, cooking toffee apples and cinder toffee for firework night, an evening hike from Longridge in Marlow and back to the Scout Hut in the dark and cooking leek and potato soup for St Andrew's Day.



Butcher, Lisa and several Explorers assisted with the bag packing and Christmas tree netting at Homebase on weekend of 17th and 18th December.



Butcher and Lisa organised the Explorers Christmas party at Ten Pin Bowling in Maidenhead on 13th December. A fun event to end 2011.

Despite the cold weather and mud, Explorers had a great weekend 6th – 8th January at the Gilwell Winter Camp in Chingford. They took part in many activities including climbing, shooting, quad biking, laser quest in the forest, archery, rotating climbing wall, laser clay pigeon shooting, simulators, robo soccer, pot holing in the black hole, climbing a coconut tree and fun at the fair. Other activities were available but they ran out of time - surprisingly.



Activities to look forward to over the coming weeks are – hosting the District Archery Competition (hosted by BHA), shooting at Marlow Gun Club, climbing at Bourne End and the District Monopoly Run.



Group News

2011 was a very challenging one for Boyne Hill Altwood Scout Group with several resignations from both Leaders and members of the Group Executive Committee:-

- *Group Executive, Chairman, Howard Cooper resigned end August 2011*
- *Group Scout Leader, Geoff Nicholls resigned early October 2011*
- *Assistant Cub Scout Leaders, Andy and Julie resigned mid October 2011*
- *Group Secretary, Angela Collins resigned end December 2011*

As you will know we were at the stage where we were having difficulties running the various Sections with too few Leaders thus putting a strain on existing Leaders who very kindly opted to cover more than one Section. District Commissioner, Nigel Bevan became involved and organised a meeting for parents on 23rd November 2011 to explain the current situation. Since that date we have managed to recruit:-

- *Maria Hodge, Beaver Scout Leader*
- *Adam Palethorpe, Assistant Beaver Scout Leader*
- *Mark Blunden, Cub Scout Leader*
- *David Weeks, Assistant Scout Leader*
- *Margarita Reed, Group Secretary*

We still have vacancies for:

Leaders

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

Grouped Executive Committee

- Chairman
- Treasurer (with effect from July 2012)

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. Dates for next meetings are Monday 26th March and Monday 14th May commencing at 7:15pm at the Scout Hut.

100 Club

We currently have only 29 members in our 100 Club and would like to try to increase the numbers so 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 are: August- Jenny Boden; September – Mrs Young; October – David London.

Scout Shop Duty Rota

Jane Walsh, a 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 four times a year.

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.

Dennis Bateman

Dennis was born in Paddington, London and moved to Ruislip, Middlesex where he joined the 1st South Ruislip Scout Group (now disbanded). His first camp was at Brockweir in the Wye Valley. A highlight of his scouting days was to man the 20 kilometre post for the Grand Marathon at the 1948 Wembley Olympic Games.

He was educated at Willesden Technical College and met his wife Maureen at a dance at Wembley Town Hall. They were married in 1958 at Hendon and moved to Maidenhead shortly afterwards where he joined The British Ermeto Corporation as a Draughtsman. When the company moved to Bridgewater, Somerset he joined Hale Hamilton Vales in Uxbridge as a design engineer - retiring in 1994. Dennis' two sons, Jeremy and Tim were both Cubs and Scouts with Boyne Hill Altwood.

Like Allan Brown, he was approached by Roy Hall the current Scout Leader to help with Scouts. He joined the Group shortly after Allan in 1968 and became Assistant Scout Leader to Allan and for a time was Group Scout Leader. He was a Member of the Maidenhead Scout Fellowship and was awarded the Medal of Merit and also Long Service Decoration.

One highlight of his time at BHA was to attend Blazers Night Club at Windsor and present a real Mini car to the winner of the new HQ fund raising raffle run by the Group. A massive undertaking by both Parents and Leaders.

Dennis will be missed by his Scouting friends and our Group are very grateful for all the support and guidance he has given us over the year spent with Boyne Hill Altwood Scout Group.

Profile of a Group Member



“Hi, my name is Paul Tisdale and I was born in Cookham in 1954. I have 3 children the eldest Jason is living and working in Sri Lanka with his wife Rebecca. My daughter Hayley is living with her husband Andy in Warfield with their 2 children Max and Daisy. My youngest son Sam lives with myself and my partner Jane in Maidenhead.

I left school at 15 and started an apprenticeship as a carpenter and worked in that trade for many years before being made redundant in 2009. I then took a complete change of direction and I now work for Sainsbury’s, shopping for, and delivering goods that have been ordered on line.

I first became involved with Boyne Hill Altwood Scouts when Sam joined the Beavers when he was 6 years old. We attended two family camps in Windsor Great Park which is where Sam’s love of camping started. Sam worked his way through Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and is now is an explorer (gaining The Chief Scouts Bronze, Silver and Platinum Awards and is currently working towards his Queens Scout Award) he has been able to participate in many different events such as camping, night hikes, Beaverees, cooking competitions, Monopoly Runs, water sports, mountain treks, AGMS and lots more. He has also had a chance to help with fund raising for the group and more recently for children in Africa when he had the chance to go to Uganda.

I was asked to become a Group Executive member in 2005 and I attend meetings on a regular basis and give the parents view of the group. I have also helped with the Scouts at their weekly meetings, clearing the Green Field site and Table Top sales. I helped with security at the Centenary Camp on Cookham Moor. It may have been May but the weather was very wet, cold and windy and some of the Scouts and Cubs had to go home early because their tents had blown away!

The Scouting Association is a great thing to get involved with for both the parents and the children. It is good to see your child grow and develop and become a useful member of society whilst giving something back yourself.”

Paul