

# THE ESSEX ADVENTURE

The County Bulletin of Essex Scouts Edition 393 January 2011



ESSEX  
[essexscouts.org.uk](http://essexscouts.org.uk)

## One minute interview

### with Penny

#### Why did you get involved in Scouting?

I first got involved when my kids joined Beavers and over the years I've helped out when I could as a parent helper. Now they are older (17 + 19) when the opportunity came up for this job, I thought that I could really make a difference.

#### What's the best success you've had so far

We had a stall at the Ford Diversity day at Dunton in September together with other youth groups, faiths and educational stalls supporting things like grants and disabilities. The support and interest was amazing. Not only did we get some fantastic contacts for help in running different awards we got 17 members of Ford staff to help at the Thriftwood Community day. It was great seeing non Scouting people getting stuck in and loving it. The problem is not what Scouting does it's getting people to experience it!

#### What would you say to a leader looking to get some more help

Give me a call, my job is to run and support recruitment events, tasters and activities to help. We've had great successes around the county just by 'educating' parents, letting them have a taste of what Scouts do. I often use the "So you know think you know Scouting - think again" video which every leader should see to remind them and every parent should see to encourage them.

#### What would you say to someone looking to get involved?

Come down and give it a try - as much time and as much effort as you can - not everyone can commit but any time is good time to be involved.

#### Sum up Scouting in one word

Excitement

#### What does Scouting offer leaders and helpers?

It adds leadership skills for life, develops confidence, communication skills and a better sense of community. It reminds them of childhood, teaches teambuilding, offers the gift of giving others an opportunity and of course time to have fun.

Finally If you want to chat through any ideas for development projects or want to find out about how Penny can support you, feel free to get in touch direct. Before Penny starts working on any project the County

Development Project Team review individual projects, what their aims and objectives are, and whether the project will meet out key recruitment and retention aims. To bid for assistance you need to complete a simple form and submit it to the Development Project Team - see [www.essexscouts.org.uk/development](http://www.essexscouts.org.uk/development) for more details.

## Moving on up!

If Scouting is an adventure then lets ensure more people can join it!

This special edition Essex Adventure has been designed to focus on Moving In and Moving On the phrase given to encourage organic growth in the movement. We look at Penny Meadows Essex's very own Local Development Officer, case studies from each section, dates for the future and tips on maximising the MIMO experience.

### Fortifying Scouts in Tilbury

They say that Scouting is an adventure and with a series of activities from climbing, archery, tug of war and crafts open to all it wasn't surprising to see the interest the Scouts received at Tilbury Fort this week. Designed as a recruitment drive the day was a success. "it's been a fantastic day" said Penny Meadows, County Development Officer "We've had 45 kids want to join and 5 parents interested in either leadership or going on the parent rota." Looking at them having fun though it wasn't too hard to see why. For more details on Scouting in Essex: [www.essexscouting.org.uk/join](http://www.essexscouting.org.uk/join)

### Canewdon go Beaver hunting!

Due to popular demand a Beaver Scout Colony is hoping to be set up in Canewdon. Unfortunately the popularity gained by handing out leaflets at the village fete and other events meant that more help was needed to support them. Penny Meadows, the Essex County Development Officer said "What was even more amazing

than the kids putting their names down was the number of adults and parents that wanted to help. We've had over 20 say they wanted to support however and whenever they could. It's been another great success for Scouting in Essex". For more information about joining: [www.essexscouts.org.uk/join](http://www.essexscouts.org.uk/join)



# Events in 2011



## 6 March

### TRACKS

[essexscouts.org.uk/tracks](http://essexscouts.org.uk/tracks)  
An offroad cycling competition for all members at Redbridge Cycle Circuit.

## 26 and 27 March

### Scouts Take Over The School

Opportunity for all adult volunteers to renew or learn the skills to lead Scouting

## 7 May

### More Than A Walk In The Countryside

Scout section incident hike around the Essex countryside

## 13 to 15 May Essex Weekend

Weekend camp for leadership teams, executives or supporters. Try out new skills and activities. Pick up renewed training and good practice

## 11 June

### Beaver Scout Fun Day

A global themed activity day for all Beaver Scouts in Essex at Hylands Park in Chelmsford

## 17 to 19 June

### Giga Camp

[essexscouts.org.uk/gigacamp](http://essexscouts.org.uk/gigacamp)  
Summer activity weekend for the Scout section at Skreens Park, Chelmsford

## 24 to 26 June

### Mega Camp

Summer activity weekend for the Cub Scout section at Skreens Park, Chelmsford

## 8 to 10 July

### MAD Weekend

Themed weekend for Network members with 7 different venues offering a mix of music, activities and food.

## 23 to 25 September

### County Marathon

The two day self sufficient team backpacking and overnight camping competition for Explorers, Network and Active Support members

## 26 September

### Can Your Beaver Scouts Do This?

The skills based day for adults in the Beaver Scout section

## 18 to 20 November

### WINTAC

A winter based activity for Explorers with activities and sports and a themed evening of entertainments

For more information please visit:

[essexscouts.org.uk](http://essexscouts.org.uk)

## 2012

18 to 20th May Essex Weekend  
22 to 24 June MAD Weekend  
18 to 25 August Essex International Jamboree

## 2013

June Giga Camp

## 2014

June Mega Camp

## 2015

June Giga Camp

Matthew (10) 9th Basildon

"I only joined two years ago, a friend was a Cub and he was enjoying it so I thought I'd join."

Like many though Matthew wasn't sure what to expect. "It was amazing, I've got to do some great things and learn new skills. My favourite? That would have to be archery, none of my other friends at school have done that, I get to do many different things here and I hear they do even more in Scouts so of course I'll be staying!"

Sally, Parent Helper -Hutton all saints

"I never understand why more adults aren't involved in Scouting, it's fun, social and value for money." Sally represents the hidden support in Scouting, without the time to commit to becoming a full leader she's not warranted but helps out whenever she can "Why wouldn't you want to help? You get to see your kids have fun and you can have a go too!! I've learnt so much about my self, it's made me a more accepting and understanding parent. It's a shame that more aren't involved."

Robin (40) Executive Member, 1st Stanway

Like many adults, Robin got roped in when his son started. "I used to take Oscar to Beavers and I realised that they needed help. I saw Oscar having fun and I guess I wanted not only to make sure that continued but that I could share it with him." And now that Oscar is older Robin is an Executive Member "I still get to join in, share my hobbies such as astronomy with the Scouts and best of all I get to go camping too! Why do it? Other than the obvious fun you have, I think it's seeing the Scouts grow and gain awards. It's a privilege to see the pride someone gets when they receive their Chief Scouts Award knowing you were part of that."



Oscar (11), Scout, 1st Stanway

For Oscar, Scouting is all about the people you are with. "It's been great, I started as a Beaver when I was 6 and here I am with the same friends doing the same great stuff." Ironically he doesn't miss Cubs as he gets to do more activities with, yes, his friends! "Explorers? Can't wait, some of my friends have moved on already and they say it's even more fun so when I'm old enough I'll join them there."

Jacob (8), Beaver, 1st Henham & Elsenham, Hatfield Forest

"I joined because my friends were Beavers. They said they were having fun." Jacob, like so many Beavers joined at the age of 6. He likes the activities, the games but best of all the camping. "My favourite thing I've done was the Beaver Sleepover – I can't wait to join Cubs and go on a proper camp!"

Liz (30), Hatfield Forest District Commissioner

Liz has been in Scouting for 15 years, she started as a Venture Scout. Originally she joined to have fun and spend time with her friends, and the reasons for her staying are the same. 'It gives you so many opportunities, things you'd never do – from driving tractors to joining thousands of others at international camps. Ok so maybe not everybody wants that but for me it's so much fun!'. And it's not just about the big stuff, "My proudest moment? Seeing a shy Beaver reading in church for the first time. It's not just what it gives me it's what it gives others."

David (17) Explorer

For David with 10 years in the Scouting family it was just a natural progression to move on to Explorers. "To be honest it's not that much different from when I was a Scout, I still get to spend time with friends, go camping and do different things. Ok so the camps are much better, the places we go to are more amazing and the activities are of course more adventurous! Yep it's definitely better! And I hear that Network is better still – looks like I won't be leaving soon!"



Karen (36) 9th Basildon

"I've first joined as a Venture Scout, wow that's 20 years ago!" Karen enjoyed being part of something, having fun and getting the chance to do completely different things. "Although I love to see the Cubs get their awards it has also helped me. Even just having it on my CV has opened doors. I don't understand why more adults don't just give it a go."

Luke 'Dolly' (26) ESMAT & Network Adult Support

"Why have I been in Scouting since I was a Beaver? Why not! Sometimes it's hard to explain to people outside of Scouting why you do it, you just do!" Luke has had some fantastic experiences in Scouting, "My favourite either driving a mini in to the O2 arena for Live 07 or being the face of Scouting for the Sainsbury's leadership drive." He admits that he joined Adult Support as there is nothing else left "Hey I've had my turn - let the younger guys have a turn!"

Mikey (21) Southend Synergy Network

Although he first joined as a Scout Mikey has made the most of his time in the movement. "My proudest moment was meeting the Queen at BP house when she went to reveal her bust - My most embarrassing moment was when she asked me what badge I was working on by being on my stilts; "I said 'the jumping badge'". Mikey is also an Explorer leader and part of the Southend Gangshow, he can't imagine not being part of Scouting. "Explorers was cool as it was the chance to do things for the first time but Network is better, it develops independence, confidence and gives a chance to share the adventure with others."



**Ages** Make sure you're aware of the ages that young people can begin the MIMO process. It's usually six months either side of the core age ranges.

**Buddy System** When members move between sections, buddy them up with an older responsible member who can help to look after them during their first few weeks.

**Community** Remember we belong to the community of Scouting so no matter what section they are part of make sure they stay within the community.

**Development** Scouting develops people, by encouraging MIMO you are assisting the member to develop to the next level.

**Engage** Get your new members engaged in the new section by asking them what activities they like to do. This will help to make them feel at home and part of their new section.

**Friends** It's always easier to try something new with a friend... so try and send members up to their next section with someone they know. It will help them to move between sections and guarantee two new members for their new leaders!

**Going back** The best advocates are those who have moved on and are happy - use newly transitioned members to go back and tell their old sections how good MIMO is.

**Health Checker** Use the transition health checkers to aid the movement of young people between sections.

**In Touch** Make sure you get the emergency contact details for new members when they join. It's vital that you know who to contact in the event of an emergency. By the same token, make sure parents know how to contact you.

**Joint Activities** Hold joint activities with other sections to help breed familiarity. It's always easier for members to move between sections if they know that they know someone when they get there.

**Knowledge** People don't change as there is uncertainty in the unknown. Through joint activities, smooth transitions, introduction sessions there will be more knowledge and trust of the next section.

**Leaders** Leaders play a vital role in MIMO. Have a discussion with other leaders about when is the right time for members to move between sections and agree a strategy to help the process go smoothly. Work together to make it happen.

**Moving on Award** Use the Moving on Award as a tool to help you move members between sections. Remember it should be awarded by the new leader when the member officially moves between sections.

**Nowhere** Remember MIMO is better than losing a member. If they aren't moving on where are they going?

**On-going** MIMO is not a once a year activity. It's an ongoing process where members move between sections at any time of the year. Bear this in mind at all times and think to yourself, "Am I prepared for new members this week?"

**Parents** Parents are an essential part of the MIMO process. Take time to introduce yourself to new parents and make them as welcome as the new member. Remember if you get to know them, you never know, you might recruit some new adults into Scouting.

**Quality** Quality, Quality, Quality! Make sure you have a Quality Balanced Programme which covers all the Programme Zones for your section.

**Record Cards** Make sure you keep good records of your members. When it comes to them moving on, the record card is invaluable in telling the new leaders all about them including interests and badges.

**September** September is a busy month for Moving In and Moving On. Lots of Leaders wait until summer camps are over and the start of the school year before they send young people up to the next section.

**Transition** During transition, encourage members to attend both sections for a few weeks. This helps to avoid the shock of making the move in one step.

**Understanding** Talk to your new members so that you can understand what it is that may be worrying them about moving on. Often their fears are easily addressed by reassuring them.

**Visits** Help to ease the new member into their new section by visiting them in their old section.

**Welcome Pack** Prepare a Welcome Pack to help new members find the information they need.

**Xclusion** Okay, not quite a word, but you know what I mean. Be watchful to make sure that new members are not being excluded from social groups in their new section. The biggest discouragement for anyone is to move in to a new social group and then be excluded.

**Young People** Remember Scouting is all about its members. Involving the young people and asking what they are expecting from MIMO if we listen to them we are more likely to be able to deliver.

**Zealous** Be passionate about encouraging your members to the next level of their Scouting adventure. And remember by moving members on you are allowing space to move members in.