

# THE ESSEX ADVENTURE

The County Bulletin of Essex Scouts Edition 392 June 2010



## Taking the leap of faith

What an occasion! Not only has this edition of the Essex Adventure been written in a day by members each page has been written by it's own section! This level of involvement in county communications may be a big leap of faith in our members but I believe we should be doing it more often. After all what is Scouting all about? Youth!

Words like: interaction, involvement and listening should be our focus when putting together our programmes & activities.

By doing so we can ensure that the Scouting framework remains flexible to their needs at a local level. What works in say, Saffron Walden, may not work so well in Thurrock because of different population demographics as well as rural/urban locations.

So enjoy this unique edition and a big thanks for all those involved in its production.

**Jan Dear, County Commsioner**

## Sharing the adventure

So by now you may have noticed several changes to this edition of the adventure. Yes, it was designed in a day with each section but more importantly it has been sent out by post to over 4000 members. The goal of the EA was to spread the news of Scouting in Essex, share best practice, inform, remind and celebrate the Adventure.

To do this, it has to be read, and we'd like to make sure you receive it the way you want it. Please let us know whether you're happy to receive it by email or if you'd prefer one copy per household

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

Finally, we would love to know what you have been up to or to share your ideas with others so we've made it as easy as possible for you! So:

- 1 / Think about what you've done or about to do
- 2 / Submit your item on the news page
- 3 / Add as much, or as little as you can
- 4 / We'll prepare your story for publication
- 5/ It'll go out online, and may go out in Essex Plus or The Essex Adventure

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



# Cub Scouts

## Past

here's what we've been up to...

**January: Recycling Challenge**

**February: Learning a new culture and religion**

**March: Visit from a local sports coach**

**April: Healthy eating and fair trade**

## Activities

Here are some activities that we've got coming up, but can you guess the common link?!

Visiting a Sealife Centre, Pond dipping, River clear up  
Canoeing, Protect the fort, Water challenge

Interview with

## Billy and Josh

two Cub Scouts from Thorpe Bay



**Which badge are you looking forward to completing?**

**Josh:** The Air Activities as I'm hoping to go into the RAF when I'm older. I'd really like to find out more about planes, and would find this really interesting.

**Billy:** I'd like to complete the Fitness Challenge. The badge requirements match a lot of the activities we do at our weekly Cub meetings, and it helps us to stay fit too!

**What is your favourite game to play?**

**Billy:** I like team games, especially ones where we need to work together to solve a problem. My favourite game at the moment is Jailbreak!

**Josh:** I like dodgeball as it's quick, fun, and easy to get a new game started.

## Coming up

### fab

**A Fun Activities Blast for Cub Scouts in Essex**

Sunday 11th July 2010

Skreens Park Activity Centre

Inflatable Obstacle Course, Bungee Run,

Backwoods Cooking, Canoeing, Tyre Challenge,

Climbing, Bouncy Castle. £5 per Cub Scout

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

### PREFAB

**A FREE evening for adult volunteers in the Cub Scout section**

Saturday 10th July 2010

BBQ, Campfire, Camp overnight, Water Activities,

**Meet Other Leader from across Essex**

# Beavers

## Past

here's what we've been up to...

Competing in TRACKS  
Bike ride  
Sport Relief  
St. George's Day



Celebrating St. George's Day

Basildon Beavers celebrated St George's Day with their annual Group fun day and despite the overcast weather and threat of rain, planted 250 hedging plants at Kingston Ridge after a short promise renewal ceremony.

Interview with

**Alex**

a Beaver from the 1st Hullbridge Scout Group

**What is the best thing you've done at Beavers?**  
I liked learning to read a map and using a compass.

**Have you been to Beaver sleepover?**  
Yes, I really enjoyed it, we played games really late at night, and we slept in bunk beds. I couldn't see my friend because he was hiding in his sleeping bag!

**Have you been on any trips with your beaver unit?**  
Yes we have been to Belchamps and the woods (Hockley) several times.

**How many badges do you have?**  
5 or 6 – I really enjoy doing them and spider (leader) does loads with us!

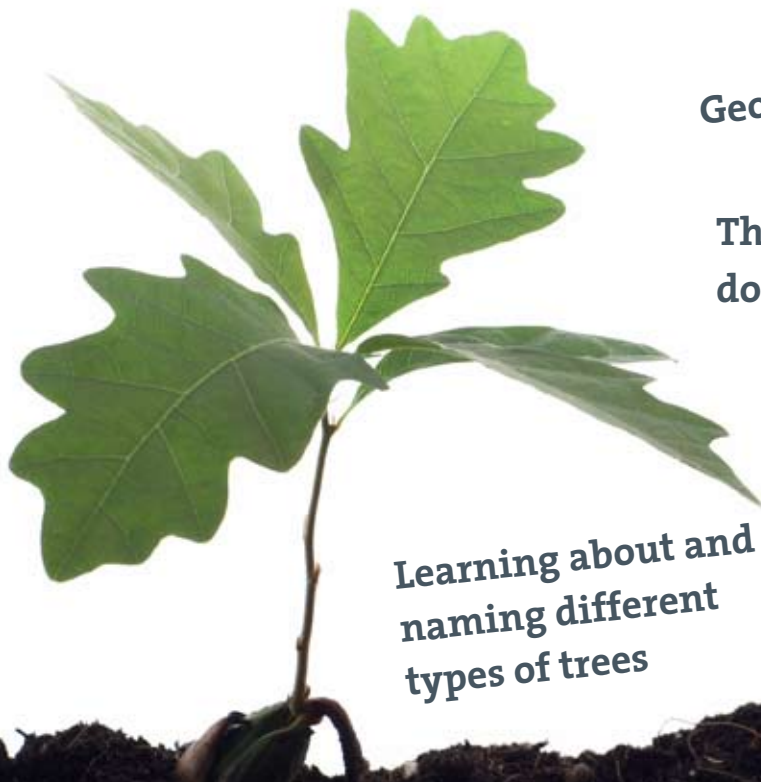


## Beaver Fun Day

is going to be on the 11th June 2011

## Support

Some ideas we'd like to do this summer



Learning about and naming different types of trees

Geocaching

The dos and don'ts of fires

Hide and seek

Making a den indoors

Creating leaf rubbings



# Scouts

## More than a walk in the Countryside 17-18th April

10 miles of walking, a giant campfire and big bags of sweets.... This can only have been 'More than a walk in the Countryside'. 216 (to confirm) Scouts from across the county were involved in the walk from Maldon to Prances campsite in April.

Scouts from 2nd Hawkwell Unit were the first ones to reach the campsite and set up their tents, winning the competition for this year. The Scouts were then treated to an evening of films, football and campfire singing whilst making new friends.

One Scout, Laura, from 1st Rayleigh Scouts said, "The best part was getting to the campsite after all the walking and looking at all the stars at night"



## Interview with Dan Sutton County Scout Leader



### Why did you join Scouting?

I joined when I was 8 and enjoyed it so much I've never left... and why do I still do it? It makes me feel young again!

### What is the first thing you pack when you go to camp and what do you always forget?

I always pack my sleeping bag first, but never remember my pillow.

### What would you say to someone who is thinking of becoming a Leader?

Don't be put off by the paper work.

### If you could give one bit of advice to Leaders what would it be?

To remember who we are here for.

### Sum up Scouting in one word

Adventure.

### Proudest Scouting Moment?

I think it would be my first international trip when we went to Switzerland. I had never been abroad with Scouting before and taking a large group of young people away to another country was a challenge.

### What are you most looking forward in Scouting?

I am going to Iceland next year which I am really excited about.

### What is your hope for Scouting in the future?

I hope that it continues to grow and give adventures to many more young people.

## Coming Up

12 June - David Clare Archery Competition

13 Jun - ECSCT June Badge Course Training Day

25-27 June - ECSCT June Badge Course

26 Sep - ECSCT October Badge Course Training Day

8-10 Oct - ECSCT October Badge Course

# ≈ 2.1%

Scouting has grown by 2.1% this year!  
Laura, Ella, Tom, Ryan and Callum help us to see why

- Everyone is welcome
- It's good fun
- We get to go camping, which is great
- Everyone is really friendly and you get to make lots of new friends
- Our Leaders are cool and organise lots of activities for us to do

## Programme Ideas

Ideas for camp activities  
or for a meeting:

Survival skills  
Backwards cooking  
Pioneering  
Circus Skills  
Creative activities

## THE ESSEX ADVENTURE

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# How do you feel?

How do we feel about being in Explorers? Does it bother us enough to not tell people? Do we get embarrassed talking about it? We Think Not!

We asked these questions to a few people and here's their response. What do you think?

**Peter** – It's just a huge social circle within scouting. Outside of school, over half of people are my friends from there. The social circle is broader due to Scouting. You find out more about someone on

## David Clare Competition

An archery field shooting competition. Prances Scout Campsite Saturday 12 June 2010  
To enter, contact ECSAT on 07710 451114 or victoria.spooner@btinternet.com

## Interview with Richard Baker ACC Explorer Scouts



### What is your role within Scouting?

I'm Assistant County Commissioner Explorer Scouts. In simple terms, it's my job to make sure Explorer Scouts experience the Adventure of Scouting by supporting local Districts.

### What do you enjoy about your role?

This role is focused on supporting the adults working in the section, although I really enjoy getting out and about and meeting Explorer Scouts from across the County. When I was younger, Scouting provided me with life changing opportunities and experiences, which I am rewarded with to this day. I enjoy the satisfaction of putting something back in to Scouting after taking so much out.

### What have you done since your role started?

Well, I've been to lots of meetings! I've spent time getting to know everyone and work out where all the challenges are. Thankfully we have a brilliant team

a camp – you have to talk to them, we find out a lot more about them as we're in close proximity for the whole weekend and more. Shared experiences!

**Nicola** – We're not pressurised at all. We enjoy what we do and get involved with it. It doesn't bother me! I just constantly have a smile on my face!

**Daniel** – It's all about a group of friends – common link between us all. We've all got Scouting in common and it all plays a huge role within our lives. Through Scouting you make so many connections, for life! If it wasn't for Scouting, I wouldn't have the life-long friends that I do now!!

# 1381



107 new Explorer Scouts joined in the last 12 months

# 1274

of County Explorer Scout Leaders who support the section across Essex and they help to share the workload! We've also been busy with starting to organise events like The County Marathon and WINTAC.

### Best experience within Scouting?

It has to be my birthday on the day of Scouting's Sunrise – I was at the World Scout Jamboree in Chelmsford and shared the experience with forty thousand people – awesome!

### Favourite activity within Scouting?

It would have to be hill walking – there's nothing like the freedom and solitude of getting out in the hills where there are no constraints of normal life – the best escape from the office!

### How do you think Scouting could expand?

Well, we already are expanding; the statistics since 2006 already show this. However, to take this growth to the next level, we need focus on where we are losing the most members. In the next year we have a big challenge to improve the number of Scouts moving in to the Explorer section, and an even bigger challenge to increase the membership of the Scout Network. This needs all adults working in these sections to be involved in finding ways of working together to better encourage the successful movement of members between sections. Only then will we start to see a real expansion in our membership.

# Explorer Scouts



## The County MARATHON

### WALK NOT RUN!

Two day self-sufficient team backpacking and overnight camping competition open to Explorer Scouts, Scout Network, Leaders & Active Support. Team sizes 4-6.

Fri 1 to Sun 3 October 2010  
[essexscouts.org.uk/marathon](http://essexscouts.org.uk/marathon)

Book online. £22 per person.  
Full payment by 31 July.

## Network Scouts

### Past

Here's what we've been up to...

Gathering  
Gang Show  
Umpa Night  
Aussie Jambo

### Future

Here's what we've got coming up in the next couple of months

Fancy Dress  
Bowling – Aug

Chill  
21-23rd May

MAD  
25-27th June

Sky Dive  
Aug/Sept

Sun Run  
2-4th July

FESTIVAL  
4-6th June

Interview with

**Martin Falder**

County Scout Network Commissioner



#### What exciting projects do you have on the go/planning for Network?

We have a Super Network Award which has just been announced, with points being given for awards, accounts in on time and links with explorers/other networks.

#### What is the best life skill scouting has taught you?

Creative thinking

#### Best Network camp and why?

I've really enjoyed all the camps I attend, each for different reasons but two stand out from the crowd for me: MAD in home turf and having the largest amount of Essex Network

to cause mischief with is great, and Gathering. I've probably not had as many cups of tea any where else, as I do there, as well as the long convoy that goes with that. Tea anyone?

#### Who do you look up to in the Scouting world and why?

Not many people are taller than me.

#### Camping top tip?

To keep boots dry and insect free, push sticks into the ground and place boot over top of sticks.

#### If you could be a chocolate bar which one would you have done on camp?

Toblerone because there's a point to it.

## Why join?

1. You can further your awards in Network including QSA, DofE Gold, Explorer Belt and Woods Badge.
2. The Scout Network has given a greater freedom of activities than any other youth group.
3. 2010 will be the beginning of a drive for better linkage with Explorer Scout Units.
4. Every year Network are dedicated to helping the community.
5. 2010 has seen more Network members volunteer as Leaders than any previous year.



## Super Network Award

All Essex Networkers are out and about grabbing stars to win one of 3 prizes in this year's competition. The more stars, the more chance to win pizza, a cinema trip or a go ape activity.

- ★ 20 stars – Timely & good standard accounts or timely census return
- ★ 10 stars – Queen's Scout Award or Explorer Belt, Local Advisor Wood Badge, Completion of Group Awards or Network Group assists at District event
- ★ 5 stars - Varied program, Explorer/Network joint nights, fundraising events, program put on calendar, advertising on Network forums
- ★ 2 stars - Funny pictures of the County Scout Network Commissioner