



4th NFN (Eling) Sea Scouts Newsletter April 2009



Dear all,

Now that our clocks have moved forward and the evenings are becoming lighter by the week, all of our sections will be making the most of this within the evening activities. I urge you to visit our scout web site www.elingseascouts.org.uk where you will see what exciting plans are in store for the children throughout the spring and summer months.

In May we are holding a special Chief Scouts Award ceremony at Lyndhurst for those children in each of the sections who have worked hard and successfully completed their challenges. Well done to all concerned and I look forward to seeing you there.

You may or may not know that we have a new District Commissioner for scouting. His name is Kerie Wallace and I would like to wish him on behalf of the group every success in his new role.

Over the last two years the group has grown considerably. This has been across all our sections. To support this we have worked hard to build a leader team to manage these numbers together with an administration team who successfully support the group's ambitions for scouting. That said, there is often the need to increase the numbers in teams to lighten the load. The group is currently looking for 2 Asst Scout leaders/assistants to support Gary and his team as the size of the troop continues to increase. We need this extra support if we are to maintain the really exciting programme the Scout team is offering. Please don't leave it to others, if you can help, please contact Gary or myself.

Finally to all you Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers, I hope you have a fantastic time over the next few months and remember the hard work your leaders put into make all this possible. You can support them by continuing to turn up, join in and get the most from what is being offered.

Enjoy the summer

Paul

A word from our Chairman

I'm pleased to say that the Group is continuing to be very busy. On the membership front, there is a steady flow of members into Beavers and Cubs and then up through the sections. It is so encouraging to see how many of the younger children enjoy themselves that they want to stay on with our Group throughout their Scouting. Numbers are high in all sections, and there is a healthy waiting list for Beavers including several children a few years in advance of being old enough to start. It is great to be so popular!

The admin team is also busy. As ever, the fundraisers have lots going on (and could always do with more help, if anyone is looking for ways to help out). Two particular highlights coming up are the Donkey Derby and the 3 Peaks Challenge. With finances in a healthy state and various donations coming in to help us keep up to date with equipment, most of the money being raised can go straight into the new building fund, where it will make a real difference to the long term prospects of this exciting Scout Group.

See our web site at www.elingseascouts.org.uk for news about future events.

The building project itself is progressing towards our goal of a new headquarters with boating facilities on the shore of Testwood Lake. We are currently being frustrated by some legal delays over ensuring our lease on the land is long enough to guarantee a sure future for us, and to reassure potential donors that they can treat us as a serious concern. No-one objects to the lease extension; it is simply a matter of getting the necessary signatures in place. As soon as we can get the various parties' signatures on the paperwork, Full Planning Permission should then be a formality. We have had Outline Planning Permission for some time, the consultation period has run with no objections, a biodiversity report raised no significant issues that could prevent the build from going ahead, so it is only awaiting the legal technicalities. A signed, extended lease and Full Planning Permission will be major breakthroughs in enabling us to seek further grant funding.

In the meantime, grant funding applications for the building continue to go in, as well as receiving a number of local donations which are doing a great job of covering current project costs. We are also progressing getting detailed building plans drawn up and having discussions with local contractors about possible approaches to building in phases. We have recently had a soil test done which has confirmed that piling is not required and that the cheaper option of a concrete raft foundation is viable and appropriate. This is perhaps indicative of our general approach to the project - get something built as quickly as possible, in phases if necessary, to get us tangibly moving forward, but without taking any short cuts which jeopardise our long term future prospects. We are working on the principle of expecting to be in the new building, even if it is only a first phase, for next year's AGM in the summer of 2010.

Which brings me to this year's AGM - the evening of Monday 15th June 2009 at the hut on Causeway Crescent. Please come along to see what is going on across the Group and lend your support to the leaders and administrators who give so much of their time.

Summer is coming and we are going to make the most of it; I hope you will all be able to take an active part in a fun summer of Scouting,

Brian
Group Chairman

Around the Sections



January saw us welcome nine new starters and brought our Colony numbers up to 31, the largest we have ever been. The month also brought with it bad weather forcing the cancellation of one evening and the relocation of another to the Sports Hall at Abbotswood School. That night we thought that all our Christmases had come at once, so much space! We had plenty of room to complete the final part of the Health and Fitness badge and the Fitness Challenge.

January also saw the Colony learn about Australia as part of their Global Challenge in a very busy evening full of different activities organized by Paul. We also took part in the annual district Swimming Gala held at Totton Recreation Centre finishing an admirable joint third. Congratulations to all those that took part.

The bad weather continued into February resulting in the cancellation of our first meeting. The theme of our next meeting was World Scouting where we found out about Beaver Scouts in different parts of the world, what they were called and what their uniform was like. We finished the month by completing the third part of the Global Challenge, learning about our Founder and having an indoor campfire. We were supposed to have had pancakes as well as it was Shrove Tuesday but things didn't quite go according to plan! Better luck next time Craig.

Got e-mail? Told us about it? E-mail eling.infoservice@gmail.com and keep up to date with our news.

Due to the number of new starters we had in January their Investitures into the Colony were spread over two evenings. We are glad to say that all 9 were invested and have become valuable members of the Colony.

March has been another busy month with two meetings during the first week. We rescheduled the Tuesday meeting as a replacement for one of those lost to the weather and made a 'cultural' visit to the Peg & Parrot pub in Rumbridge Street. No, it was not for a drinking session but to receive a donation to the Group of £500 from the staff and regulars. The pub makes an annual donation to a local good cause from its bottle on the bar and other collections and thanks to Jarvis's Dad putting in a good word for us they decided that this year it should go to the Scout Group. The money will be split between the Building Fund (£400) and the Colony itself (£100). Thanks again to all at the Peg & Parrot. The Thursday saw our young Beavers take part in a District Fun Evening at Serendipity Sam's in Romsey. Everybody had a great time, especially our Young Leader Lewis.

Badgework has also been high on the agenda this month with work starting on the Experiment and Creative badges followed by the Creative and Outdoor Challenges. The growing of the crystal for the experiment badge certainly has caused some fun. For some of you the crystal didn't grow at all but you can't say that it is impossible, you only had to see the one grown by Dylan, it filled a jam jar! What about the bottle rockets? Yes Beth and I did get rather wet demonstrating how to fire them but it will be your turn later in May when you can all have a go at flying your own creations. We will give you a couple of weeks notice of the date so that you can prepare your craft.

I have never enjoyed a visit to a bookshop as much as I did when we visited Waterstones in Southampton. We have Craig and his friend Mark, the manager of the shop, to thank for such an interesting insight into the world of books and writing. Sorry the evening overran by as much as it did but we had two birthdays to celebrate and we didn't want to miss out on the cake.

Well that's the Spring Term over with and we can look forward to the lighter evenings of the Summer term that will find us spending more time out of the Hut. Don't forget the swords and shields for our first night back. Have a great Easter break and we will see you all on the 22nd April.

Derrick
Assistant Beaver Scout Leader



The Cub Pack membership is constantly evolving with a new intake from Beavers after Easter and 3 of the older Cubs leaving us to go up to Scouts. It's a really good time to move up to Cubs as we are mostly out and about for the summer and not stuck in the HQ!

Last term we completed our Home Safety badge, had a Bring a Friend night and also fitted in an exciting visit to Redbridge Fire Station where we not only learnt about the different types of vehicles they use, we also got to try out a rescue ourselves.

We have also completed the Astronomers badge this term and despite not being able to arrange a visit to the local observatory this year (as we have too many Cubs!) we didn't miss out because Richard one of our ASL's organised 2 excellent evenings at the HQ. We are hoping he will be in the UK when we are at camp to teach us some more constellations.

Got e-mail? Told us about it? E-mail eling.infoservice@gmail.com and keep up to date with our news.

Next term we have the Outdoor Challenge activities to look forward to. This will include the incident hike, archery, climbing, backwoods cooking or canoeing at the lake.

The Giant Sleepover is on 20th June and will be held at Copythorne scouts HQ where we will be able to hold a campfire as part of the event. Don't forget to get your old or spare badges on your campfire blanket. If you don't have one – now is a good time to get one.

Some of the Cubs will be needing longer arms shortly due to the amount of badges they have – if you need more space then take off the lower numbered badges for swimming (blue one with a swimmer), nights away (blue one with a lamp) and hikes away (blue one with a rucksack). All 2007/2008 anniversary badges must now be removed as we have a 2009 Centenary of Sea Scouting badge to give you all.

I am very pleased to say that 6 Cubs have recently completed their Chief Scout Silver Award. Cameron Palmer and Oliver Moore who have already transferred to the Scout troop, Chris Blake, Daniel Gordon, Sam Townrow and James Lewis will have finished theirs this Easter. It's the highest award a Cub can achieve so congratulations to you all on achieving this. I will look forward to seeing you get your certificates in May at our Group Award Presentation evening.

One of our Cubs will not be transferring to the Scout Troop after Easter as he is going to live in China. This is such a big adventure that we hope we can stay in touch via e-mails and find out how James and his family are getting on. Good Luck and I hope you find a way to carry on with your Scouting.

Camp this year (as you all know) is on 23rd July – 26th July and will be held at Lyons Copse Scout Centre near Botley. Letters about the camp and the kit you will need will go out at the end of May.

I am also very pleased to say that Tom and Nick have finished their Leadership Training and will be getting their Wood Badges shortly. Tom was one of our Cubs and has been helping with the Pack for over ten years. Nick joined us when his son joined Cubs and has helped for the last 7/8 years. Well done to you both – Darren and I can now retire!!!

By the time the next newsletter arrives on your doormat Akela will have climbed the 3 Peaks with some of the other Scout leaders and the 3 Peaks team. All the money raised will go to the new HQ.

Please keep an eye on the website for Group and Pack information – we are making changes to the site to keep you more informed about what is happening.

Akela



Continuing the tradition of Scout reporters, this time we managed to persuade Konnor to write the report on Stag's Head Trophy.

Konnor's Stag's Head Trophy report

On Sunday the 15th of February 2009 we set off on a hike through Stony Cross, completing a series of different challenges in teams of 5-6.

We set off on the first section of the hike. We thought we were doing really well to then only find that we were lost, but we eventually got back on track and arrived at the first base. We had to measure a fully grown tree using only a tape measure.

After we successfully completed the first task we carried on our hike to find that we weren't doing as well as we thought we were; in fact two teams had already overtaken us. After leading ourselves into marsh land we finally arrived at our second base where we had to make a catapult out of some poles and rope.

After completing our second challenge we set off again and this time stuck to the road so we wouldn't get easily lost again. Soon enough we arrived at the next base where we had to walk through bramble bushes attached to a piece of rope blindfolded. Unknown to me the rest of the team chose me to lead the way and get shredded, but over all I think we made good time.

Now we had to hike to our last base, again sticking to the roads so we wouldn't get lost. We arrived at our last base. On this one we had to find certain things, for example a pine needle. We did well, we were also the only team to find all the things.

Overall I think we worked well as a team because even though we got lost more than a few times, we managed to get back on track by discussing it with each other and by using a map and a compass.



As usual, the Explorers have had a fun packed term of some old favourites mixed with brand new activities. As Explorers plan their own programme, we had to have a night in where they all sat down and worked out what they wanted to do – a boring job but it has to be done. I'm sure they'll agree it was worth it because as a result we went shooting with live ammunition, swimming to Romsey Rapids, hiking, had a Ready, Steady, Cook competition, had an evening at Laser Quest and visited the Soft Play Zone, to mention just some of the things. As the days are getting longer, we're hoping to start getting back on the lake soon.

One highlight of the last term was the Surf Camp – guess what we did there!?

Our Young Leaders Lizzie, Lewis and Danny have now finished all of their training modules including First Aid and County Training weekend, and Adam has started on his modules and is booked for more training. They are also all helping with either Beavers or Cubs in the district: Lizzie and Lewis are with 4th Eling Cubs and Beavers respectively, Adam is with 3rd Colbury Beavers and Danny with 2nd Stanley's Own Cubs and Beavers. They put in a lot of work for this and I am sure their help is greatly appreciated by the sections.

The section is still growing, with the record 10 new members looking to join us. That brings to groups' number up to 25. Just last week we invested some of newer members, with some more to go during the summer months.

Sanja,
Assistant Explorer Scout Leader

Got e-mail? Told us about it? E-mail eling.infoservice@gmail.com and keep up to date with our news.



FUNDRAISING



THREE PEAKS CHALLENGE

Three Peaks Challenge 4th & 5th July 2009

RAISING MONEY FOR 4TH NEW FOREST NORTH ELING SEA SCOUTS

Join us in raising money to build a fantastic new building which will benefit not only 4th New Forest Eling Sea Scouts but the local community as well.

Please support the team through sponsoring us online from our own scout Web Site

You can go to www.elingseascouts.org.uk click the link on home page and follow the instructions

Laura is coordinating this event. If anyone can secure sponsorship then please let Laura know. She is looking for the offer a 8 seater van if anyone can help. We have now set up the facility to sponsor on-line .

The challenge will start on Friday the 3rd July at the base of Ben Nevis (1344m). After scaling this beautiful mountain the team will then drive to Scafell Pike (978m). Finally they will travel to Mt Snowdon (1085m) finishing their challenge by camping among the fantastic scenery of North Wales and getting a good and well deserved nights sleep!

With over 3000m of climbing, over 10 hours in a minibus and hiking in the dark, this truly is a something to support.

PLEASE SUPPORT US

Got e-mail? Told us about it? E-mail eling.infoservice@gmail.com and keep up to date with our news.