

# 1<sup>st</sup> Goxhill & Barrow Scout Group News

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## Beaver Colony

Beavers will be having an Olympic-themed fun day in June with all the other Beavers in the district at Primrose Hill. Beavers did a sponsored pancake event in February and raised £305. The meetings are held every Monday evening (term time) between 6pm and 7pm at the New Holland HQ; the children in this section are aged between 6 and 8. If you can spare an hour of your time either weekly or on a rota basis, the time spent at the meetings is very enjoyable and we are always looking for more help. If you would like to come along and help please contact the Group Secretary on the number above.

## Cubs Section

Over the past few months we have said goodbye to some of our older boys as they have moved up to Scouts and we now have a full pack of boys who are relatively new to Cubs so we are looking forward to an exciting time over the next few months as we start to teach them the essential scouting skills of camping, out door cooking, map reading and hiking.

We recently took part in a District event at Caythorpe Court PGL centre near Grantham. A total of 62 Cubs and Leaders enjoyed a weekend of climbing, abseiling and raft building along with a range of other organised activities. All the boys were extremely well behaved through out and I was immensely proud of their team spirit during the activities. One of the PGL helpers who was in charge of the Jacobs ladder stated that he had not seen team-working like it for such young lads – a fantastic accolade!! The highlight of the weekend was our mud slide adventure in the pouring rain which produced a monster washing task for the parents – sorry about that!! We had a very noisy bus on the way there but it was spookily quiet on the way home for some reason!

The event was so good that we intend to run a similar trip next year specifically for the Barrow and Goxhill Scout Group and will be holding fund raising events in the near future to help fund

it.

## Scouts Section

Although January to April are not the best months for good weather the scout section still managed to keep itself very busy. We have had several camps, one at Primrose Hill and a weekend camping at the Scout HQ with Wellington & St Matthews Scout Troops from Hull. This weekend with scouts from Hull gave our Scouts an opportunity to meet young people with very different backgrounds to themselves.

Scout nights have been used as preparation for several badges the Scouts will work towards during the summer term. Several weekends away are planned for the Scouts to complete badges such as Survival, Navigator & Cooking.

Plans are also under way for the Scouts to meet one Wednesday evening each month to work towards completing the Chief Scouts Gold Award; this is the highest award available to Scouts and will take each one many months of hard work to complete.

During this time the Scout section has grown ever larger and we now run Scouts on a Monday and a Tuesday evening from 7:15pm until 9pm. If anyone would like to get involved, either as an adult helper or as a Scout then please call 01469 532696.

## Explorer Section

The Explorer section membership is made up male and female young adults between the age of 14 and 18 years old. There are presently ten active members who regularly enjoy the Friday night activities and trips away at weekends. The members have a lot of influence on the choice of activities and the leaders assist in making them happen. Friday nights are sometimes within the Scout hut at New Holland between the hours of 19.00 – 21.00 and the activities here are aimed at planning and preparing events away. The social side of the Explorers has included trips to the theatre, bowling, Barrow squash club and the Rock City

climbing wall. Some people outside of scouting have old fashioned ideas or opinions of Scouting and although we recognise the origins of Scouting we are not stuck in the past. Although the Scout promise and laws are retained there really is no 'Dib, dib, dob', sorry to spoil the illusion of many. Explorers is aimed at young people making the most of their spare time, having fun and getting the best from themselves.

We recently had a weekend away at the Viking centre in Claxby which is an excellent hostel facility. The weekend consisted of some late night navigation exercises and a hiking. The members took care of themselves in terms of meal preparation and keeping things tidy and organised. Weekends like this are for some their first taste of independence and although they are rarely completely free from a problem or two it provides great experience. At the Explorer level the members are encouraged to have confidence in one another and develop life experience with a bit of support and guidance when needed. Throughout 2008 we will enjoy some camping trips with outdoor activities and the members wish to get stuck in to some water sports and climbing this year. The group also participates in the Duke of Edinburgh scheme and many of the members are progressing well with this.

The Explorers are open for membership to all, all we ask of potential new Explorers is that they try their best and be respectful of others. 28 million people are involved in Scouts worldwide and the membership is growing, they can't all be wrong. If you are interested in becoming a member, helper or leader, no experience is necessary then please call Martin on 01469 533119.

## Other News!

The next fundraiser for the group will be a Race Night at Goxhill Village Hall on Saturday 14th June – the last Race Night we held was a great success, so come along and enjoy the fun! For more information on tickets please contact Louise on 01469 531636.