

1st Ramsden & Downham Scout Group. Summer & Autumn Report.

PACK NEWS....."Akela"

Since our first issue of the "ARROW" last spring, the Cub Scouts have been very busy with their many and various activities both inside and outside Pack Meetings.

MAY saw the Pack enjoying a delightful day out to the Commonwealth Institute, Kensington, and for this we were joined by the Downham Brownies, whom I fear were rather overwhelmed at the choruses rendered with gusto by the Cubs on the journey to and from London.....It was a lovely Spring Day and the London Parks and Gardens were a joy to see, but alas the Cubs were more concerned with the News Headlines re Bobby Moore's arrest for suspected theft...this was the only cloud over our otherwise Happy Day.

JUNE District Cubs Day Out SKREENS PARK, Roxwell. Once again this annual event proved very popular as the Hot sun shone down all day on our many activities, i.e. sports, games, five aside football, fishing competition, and a very hot Akela cooking five pounds of chipolata sausages over one primus stove. Two Cubs Martin Pitt and Mark Offley received prizes in the angling competition, and our smallest Cub Andrew Clark landed the biggest fish of the day. James Mansfield gained his Athletes Badge during the afternoon, and several other Cubs had a try but did not quite make it. Filled to the full with Pop, cake, sandwiches, crisps, sausages and sweets, we finally arrived home to Ramsden at around 6 p.m. after a very enjoyable day.

JULY Mayflower Pageant Many thanks to Cub Scouts Mark Roberts Ian Stratford, Nigel Pain, Michael Rogers, John Ayton, Gerard Northwood, Nigel and Michael Hopwood, Ian Dockrill, Andrew Clark and Keith Tipson for giving up so much of their time for rehearsals and to take part in this Pageant that was performed at Lake Meadows to celebrate the sailing of the Mayflower to America. I am sure that everyone who saw the final product would agree that the Lads put on a good show. A lot many thanks to the "mums" who so kindly made costumes

and helped out on the night of the production. "Good Work Cubs

AUGUST Pack Holiday at St. Mary's Bay Camp, Romney Marsh Kent
Under the leadership of Akela's John Ashley, Ian Benewith and myself, thirty eight Cubs from the 4th Billericay Dahinda and Seecnee Packs and the 1st Ramsden and Downham Pack spent a week at the St. Mary's Bay Schcols Journey Holiday Centre, and the holiday was voted a great success by the Cubs and leaders alike. Our meals were cooked and served by the camp staff, but we had to lay up and clear up tables and keep our dormitories swept and tidy. The Cubs were organized into sixes (as they would be at Camp) and each six was responsible in turn for these and other duties, including attendance at flag Break each day. The daily re-arrangement of the dust in the dormitories was, we found, tackled with gusto, as was the laying of the places in the dining hall, but we never seemed to have all six boys remaining for clearing up duties after the meal. Maybe, once their stomachs were full, they really did just forget. We covered many activities, including trampolining, swimming, fishing, football, cricket, rounders, horse-riding (those T.V. cowboys make it look so easy), canoeing and table tennis. Our visit to Lydd Airport included an interesting conducted tour and a ride on a small hovercraft and we also went to Bodiam Castle, a near ruin, which fired the imagination of the boys (every hole there must have been used for boiling oil). At the ancient town of Rye, we visited the beautiful church, and here, due to the quiet and respectful way in which the Cubs conducted themselves, the Verger invited our entire party to enjoy the wonderful view from the top of the church tower free of charge (Coming out of the tower, the cubs looked like peas being shelled from their pods). In fact, this pattern of good behaviour was a welcome feature of the entire holiday. There were pranks of course, and a good deal of noise, crumbs and orange peel on the first and last nights, but all thoroughly enjoyed themselves and none made a nuisance of himself either to his fellow cubs or to the leaders. Dymchurch Miniature Railway to Dungeness, where we visited the lifeboat station and scaled the old lighthouse was one of the most popular outings. We missed our train back to Camp and during the long wait for the next, one Cub, broke and near to starvation, tried to trade in his newly-bought picture postcards for food. (If a certain Stock Milkman and family did not receive postcards, they now know the

reason why...) We eventually arrived back for our evening meal, and this was followed by a camp fire and jolly sing song with hot dogs, cocoa etc. and for this we were joined by a Pack of Cubs from Maidstone. On the last night there was a Camp Concert to which we contributed a humorous sketch by four boys, also a little piece beginning "We're the fairies from the bottom of your garden..." For this we conscripted nine volunteer fairies. They were a jolly sporting lot and ranged in height from 6ft.3ins. to 3ft. nothing. Rubber boots and crepe paper abounded...and I'll leave you to imagine the scene. Within a few hours of our arrival, a Billericay Cub was taken seriously ill with pneumonia, here I can only add, that the finest care and attention was given to him at all times by the doctors and nurses of the Camp Staff, before he was admitted to Ashford Hospital several days later. This same care was given to all the children at the Camp Hospital, no matter how small their cuts or bruises, headaches or tummy upsets, for which the Leaders were extremely grateful. Here I would like to say Many Thanks indeed to the three lay-leaders, who so gallantly gave up a week of their holidays to help us out, Mrs. Ashley, Mrs. Pitt and Mr. Ayton, as without them, our job would have been a very tough one indeed. Also Many Thanks to Bagheera for nipping down after work at the weekend to help us out for a day or so.

SEPTEMBER Saw us once again back into full swing at Pack Meetings, and here we must give a welcome to four new Cubs David Morris, Mark Caampness, Robin Neale, and Stephen Dickenson whom we hope will enjoy their time with us. Also a Very Big Welcome to our new "BALOO" Mrs. Shirley Thompson who has joined us as A.C.S.L. and Mrs. Pitt who has offered her services as a Cub Instructor. The big event during September was our weekend Camp, organised by our very small band of hard working committee "Dads", who so kindly undertook to give the cubs their first yaste of life under canvas. What happened to the glorious sun we shall never know, because the rain fell and fell and fell. Try as hard as we could, the leaders could not convince the Cubs they would be much better off at home in beds than in tents. Oh no, the darlings had come to camp and camp they would.. the leaders could go home if they wished.... the rain did eventually stop and supper was had round a marvellous

camp-fire which blazed away in spite of the wet weather we had earlier. Plenty of songs, sketches, and hot bread-pudding washed down with cocoa, rounded off the day before bed.

Sunday saw the return of the sun, so the day was spent making a film which was directed by the District Information Office Mr. Vince Baker, and will be used through-out the County and District. We had a lot of fun making this film, and having since seen the finished product, it was worth while. We hope to be able to show same to the parents at a future date. Camp was dismantled with Grand Bowl and Flag Down, on the stroke of 3 p.m. Sunday, just as Mums and Dads and the rain arrived together. We were dirty, scruffy and not nearly so spick and span as we started out, but who cares, we had had fun.... Thank you to Mr. Northwood for taking over the boys on the Saturday afternoon, putting them through their paces on the athletics field, and above all, Thank you Frank Tipson for so gallantly carrying on throughout Saturday erecting tents, cooking, building the fire etc. in spite of being badly stung on the face in many places, after accidentally stepping into a wasps nest.

OCTOBER By the time this edition of the Arrow will have gone to press, we will have taken part in the District Camp Fire at Chittams Farm, Ramsden, and at the Swimming Gala at Basildon on the 17th. The results of this we shall have to let you know at a later date, but our entries are up on last year, six cubs, as again one.... Here we sadly need a good hearted Dad or Big Brother, or an Uncle keen on swimming who will take over the management of this section of the Pack Activities. Anyone interested? The Football season is in swing again, under the management of Mr. Stratford, who will be putting the Cubs through their paces during the coming months. Practice times will be announced at Pack Meetings. Once more the year is coming to a close, when again we shall soon be seeing a batch of Cubs, who, having reached the age of 11 yrs, will not be able to continue with the Pack much

longer. On one or two occasions we have been able to get our Cubs into Troops of neighbouring groups, but these are now overcrowded and cannot continue to accept our Cubs

THEREFORE, I AGAIN APPEAL TO ANYONE WITH SCOUTING EXPERIENCE, OR EVEN INTERESTED, TO FORM A SCOUT TROOP WHICH IS SO URGENTLY NEEDED IN THIS AREA. It does seem a pity that all the good work with the Cub Pack will be wasted, unless we can get a Troop started in the near future. If you are interested, or know of anyone who might be, PLEASE LET US KNOW.

UNIFORM During our Pack Holiday and various outings throughout the summer, those Cubs who wore the Cub Scout Tee shirt were far more comfortable and cooler, than those who only wore Cub jumpers. They were able to remove their thick jerseys as and when necessary, but at the same time these were to hand when it was cooler. It maybe worthwhile next year, when you are thinking of summer clothing, if you could manage to include this item in your list, they are priced at around ten shillings each. If you should have difficulty in obtaining them, and could let me know sizes etc. in due course, I will arrange to purchase same through the Scout Shops. At present Groves of Billericay are out of stock, but there is an outfitters at Wickford who can provide these.

Bric-a-Brac Please do not throw out any oddments of china pictures, toys, or usable items of any sort, as we have already started to collect same for our Mock Auction next year. Please let us have anything you may have, even garden tools etc. as we can store same.

Coffee Mornings Would any mum or mums be willing to organise a coffee morning at their home(s) in the near future, in order that we may be able to obtain funds to purchase jerseys for our football team? If so, I shall be pleased to hear from you.

Printing. Many thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Neale for so kindly offering to undertake this job for us.

R. AYTON...."AKELA"