



# 12th Didcot Scouts

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## Sept/Oct 2010

### Group Times

Beavers: Tuesday 6:15-7:30  
 Cubs: Tuesday 6:15-7:45  
 Scouts: Monday 7:30-9:30

Please ensure children are supervised until the above sessions starts—leaders are not responsible until this time.

## Group Forum Launched

The group has launched a forum to allow you all a place to discuss anything you'd like! We have set this up so that you can communicate amongst yourselves on issues such as car sharing to events, second hand uniforms and that odd sock left over from camp! The Scouts could also use it in the lead up to camps or to communicate on badge work. To use the forum go to follow the link on our website or login on the website above

## Young Leaders

The Group would like to welcome George to Beavers and Alex to Cubs; both have joined us as young leaders & will be helping their section.

## Beaver Section

As you can see from above the Group is in need of a Beaver Section Leader. At the moment the role is being covered by Sarah and Tim however we desperately need someone who feels they could take over, or share the role, on a permanent basis.

If you feel you could help out in the Beaver Section on any level could you please let Sarah know.

This role is vital to the Beaver section and does need to be filled as soon as possible.

## Uniforms

Uniforms for all sections can be purchased through the Group. By ordering through us we can claim back the tax from the government via Gift Aid, which means that the Group benefits from additional funding.

All the funds we raise are used for the enjoyment of the young people and help to subsidise the events and activities that we run.

You can now order online at [www.12thdidcotscouts.org.uk](http://www.12thdidcotscouts.org.uk)

## JOTI/JOTA

This is an annual event where Scouts and Girl Guides all over the world make contact with each other by means of the Internet and Airwaves. Over 500,000 members participate every year across the world and it is officially open for 48 hours on the weekend of 16/17th October.

The Didcot district is hosting an event this year at Manor School where there will be two radio stations set up and internet access to meet groups from around the world, electronic build projects, kite flying demonstration (Sunday only), semaphore & tuck shop. We hope to make contact with lots of groups around the world.

It will be a great event for the Cubs to attend and they can use it to work towards their communication badge.

If you would like to attend, please pop in for as long as you like between 10am-4pm, all Cubs & Scouts will need to be accompanied by an adult and be in uniform or group T-Shirt. Bagheera and Sarah will be at the event all day Sunday.

## Family Camp - a parents view

Novice's Guide to Family Camp - by Paul Higgins (on his first successful camp!)

Well we got there, and as we drove into Youlbury my foolish enthusiasm was being quickly replaced by real trepidation! Those who had the misfortune to have camped with us last September will know what I mean!?

By the time we got there the marquee was up in all it's glory thanks to two hours hard graft the night before by messes Sarah, Wendy, Craig (Skip) and Scott and the help of Scouts Rhys and Owain. The experience I understand included a first near perfect erection only to discover it was inside out, the marquee collapsing on Craig (who fortunately survived the experience) and ended with the final last touches being done by car headlights.

With the help of Wendy we got our tent up in double quick time and were soon looking forward to dinner. It was then we met the man in Wendy's life, Ernie. Vertically challenged at only 4 ½ foot tall and with his chrome top and ply base he was in fact our tea urn! Nevertheless, the affection Wendy held him in was at times touching.

On a cold night the BBQ dinner was just what we needed and after a hot drink around the camp fire we were all ready to get our heads down. Had I realised just how much noise would emanate from Craig, Sarah and Wendy's tent I am not sure we would have positioned ours next to it. The hysterics they enjoyed as they were getting into bed was both infectious and at times mystifying!?

### Saturday

After a cold but comfortable night we all began appearing bleary eyed from our tents and with Ernie lovingly brought to life we all enjoyed a wonderful cooked breakfast.

This morning the camp fire **had** to be lit as it was needed to cook the spuds for lunch and as if knowing this stubbornly refused to light. As so often happened Skip came to the rescue with a few choice comments (unrepeatable!) and the camp fire was soon burning again.

The rest of the families arrived and we were all quickly revelling in the fortunately good weather playing games; with the older ones playing in the woods making rope swings etc. Food is never far away at Family Camp and we were soon enjoying the potatoes cooked surprisingly well in the embers of the camp fire.

Then with lunch completed it was time for the more serious endeavours. We split into two groups with one group going off to the now notorious 3G swing (see Wendy for details) and the rest opting for the more sedate assault course. Although with Gary's competitive spirit it was at times anything but sedate! We all enjoyed a great afternoon and once back at camp we collected logs in our truck (plush variety) and generally got ready for the camp fire later and yes, more food!

After a wonderful 'Spag Bol' dinner and a spectacular lopsided trifle (made on a hill). A trifle, I might add,



so good that a bench went over when the entire row seated on it stood up in unison when seconds were announced! With dinner cleared and feeling full we split into groups for a scavenger hunt which produced some of the most bizarre and tenuous associations with Gary's Yankee impression being amongst the highlights and looking back should have won the whole thing on this alone.

Scott's arrival heralded our camp fire and we were soon all singing and dancing (yes, even Skip). In ways that if we were anywhere else would had the men in white coats reaching for the jackets. No camp fire is complete without marshmallows and this was no exception. After a great day and camp fire we said our good-nights to the families going home and were soon retiring for the night ourselves. Before going to sleep we were yet again entertained by the hilarity from next door albeit this time with a few additions of our own (Rhod Gilbert eat your heart out!).



### Sunday

After a milder night we woke to a shock, 'Ernie' was refusing to light! Wendy's relationship looked on the rocks but no, Skip to the rescue. 'Ernie' lit and disaster was narrowly avoided! Well into grazing mode now we all enjoyed a hearty final breakfast and then gradually de-camping and getting lunch ready (yes, more food). Everyone arrived and we enjoyed lunch and then down to the go-kart track. Abandoning Gill and Craig to put away the final bits and start taking down the marquee. Although according to Andy O the marquee might well come down all on its own anyway!

When we started go-karting Ryan, realising a potential safety issue, decided to illustrate how easy it was to crash (cue first aiders)! Safety demonstration out of the way, the races began. There was some close and competitive races that would make even F1 look like trolley market dash!! Everyone did well and Ryan even managed, in the end, to spare his blushes and bruises and take a lap or two. We finally headed back to camp and all packed the last bits away and ended of our first Family camp.

All in all, a really great weekend and I cannot thank everyone who made it all happen enough. We're already looking forward to next year's (sorry Sarah).



# 2010/2011 Group Calendar

## October

16-17th Jamboree on the Air & Internet Manor School

See front page for more details; if you would like to attend please pop in for as long as you like between 10am-4pm, all Cubs & Scouts will need to be accompanied by an adult and in uniform or Group T-Shirt. Bagheera and Sarah will be attending the event on the Sunday.

30th Fundraiser—Bag Packing Sainsbury's

Between 2-5pm we will be bag packing at Sainsbury's; please come along to help us raise funds for the group. All funds raised will be used to help fund the Christmas party, Cubs Christmas Camp and the Scouts Kayaking and Sailing next year.

## November

6th Chief Scout Silver Award Presentations King Alfred School, Wantage

A mini graduation ceremony for all the Cubs (or now Scouts) who have achieved their Chief Scout Silver Award in the last academic year. Letters will be sent to all Cubs who have achieved the award with more details of the event. It would be wonderful to see 12th Didcot Scouts attend the event for the first time in several years.

12th Executive Meeting PACT Family Centre

14th Remembrance Day Parade Orchard Centre

21st Preparation for Street Fair (TBC)

25th Street Fair Orchard Centre

The Group will be running a stall selling hot chocolate and Thomas biscuits at the fair this year. We will also be participating in the parade—this year's fair has a train theme and we will be making a Scout Train for the parade. We hope lots of our Beavers, Cubs and Scouts will be there on the evening to help the train along its way!

27th Bag Packing Tesco's

Between 2-5pm we will be bag packing at Sainsbury's; please come along to help us raise funds for the group. All funds raised will be used to help fund the Christmas party, Cubs Christmas Camp and the Scouts Kayaking and Sailing next year.

## December

5th Scout Remembrance Service Dorchester Abbey

10-12th Cub Christmas Camp Youlbury Scout Activity Centre

Christmas begins here for the Cubs—lots of festive fun with a Christmas party!

## May 2011

13-15th Cub County Camp Blenheim Palace

The camp will provide a chance for all the Cubs to try some new activities which we can not normally provide on smaller camps. The theme for the camp is around the world and will give the Cubs an opportunity to work towards their challenge badges.

## [www.12thdidcotscouts.org.uk](http://www.12thdidcotscouts.org.uk)

The website has seen many changes over the past few months. The following information can now be found on the website.

- **Parent Information** - this contains all our common forms including the camp order form and permission slip together with directions to camp sites and Youlbury Activity Centre. It also contains important information on the Scouts Child Protection Policy, CRB forms and some general information on Scouting that may be of use to you.
- **Executive team** - contains the minutes from our executive meetings, details of where and when our next meetings will be held and information on how the committee works and who's who together with all the contact details you require.
- **Section information** - each section has it's own area with details of the terms programme, photo gallery, badge information. This area will also be used to post any information about forthcoming events for the relevant section
- **Group section** - provides information on each of the leaders in the Group and contact information. Group event details will also be found here.
- **Forum** - an area where you can post topics and discuss amongst yourselves all Scouting issues; car sharing, future camps, uniforms for sale, the list goes on...