

“LIGHT TO THE RIGHT”

News Magazine published by 2nd Norbiton (St Peter's) Scout Group

Issue No. 17

July 2001

From the Editor

This will be the last edition before we break up for the summer holiday and have our camps and activities. In the four months since the last edition there have been several activities and I have got reports on most of these in this edition. There have been some District competitions and events happening and a camp since last time. As this is being printed some events had just happened and others will be happening in the very near future, so it would be nice to have some reports in early about those activities.

Magnus Kelly – Editor

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Through the Chair

It is with great sadness that we must accept the loss of another great friend of 2nd Norbiton. Maureen Hyman, who ran both the Brownie pack and Guide company at the Parish rooms, passed away very suddenly in May. Maureen had always had very close links with 2nd Norbiton through her mother, Connie Bangs, who herself is our most long-standing supporter and was our Akela back in the fifties. Maureen was on our Scout Group Executive Committee and provided endless help and support at many of our scouting events, despite not being officially connected to the Group. These included a great deal of work for our 50th anniversary last year, countless Christmas fairs, May Merries and all our social occasions. The liaison Maureen provided with the Guides was of great benefit to both the Scouts and the community as a whole. She was one of those invisible links in a local community, constantly putting people in touch and doing all the jobs no-one else had thought of. To say that she will be missed is a huge understatement. She was a unique



character and her cheerful good humour in often very difficult circumstances was an inspiration to us all.

As a Group we have had an active few months, with both Cubs and Scouts enjoying a variety of activities, often outdoors. A number of parents helped out at the May Merrie and we made a profit of £135, some of which will go the guides for their contribution. Many thanks to all who helped. We also had a very successful "Cub Banquet" with AGM evening in May, which was well attended. Thanks to Roger for the Quartermaster's quiz afterwards and a big thank you to the Cubs for their splendid meal. It was a really enjoyable evening and a chance for old friends to socialise with the Group. Thank you to both Mhairi Kelly (Secretary) and Pam Farley (Treasurer) who have agreed to stand again and we welcome Chris Bowes as a new member onto our executive committee.

The main event to look forward to at present is Summer camp for the Scouts and I know that preparations are well underway. To re-iterate what was said at the AGM, we are still in great need of some leaders to re-start the Beaver Colony. I know this is constantly being mentioned, but the facts are simply that we *must* re-open the colony or 2nd Norbiton will be no more. To lose all that history, experience and goodwill seems unimaginable, but inevitably that is what will happen. We are so lucky to have such dedicated leaders for the other sections, so if you know of ANYONE who might be interested in helping out with the Beavers (not necessarily running it themselves) please ask them to get in touch with one of the leaders or with me - (020) 8949 2856.

Wendy Morris
Group Chairman

PS If it is not mentioned elsewhere, do have a look at our wonderful 2nd Norbiton website (www.2ndnorbiton.org.uk). Many, many thanks Dave for all your hard work in setting this up. I think all contributions or suggestions are welcome, so see what you can come up with!

Beaver Report

We still do not have a Beaver colony – here is what they have missed.

In January Akela (and James Grey a 3rd Malden Beaver) attended a fun event with an entertainer who played magic tricks at 7th Malden on a Scout night. It rained heavily but the Scouts went on a hike! The magician had some rabbit tricks too. The rabbit was very cuddly.

Akela enjoyed himself so much that he joined in the games whilst the balloon hats, dogs and swords were being made.

In May a District Beaver football event was held at 1st Kingston Hill. It was a fun day with about 40 Beavers attending. Akela helped with the refereeing and saw lots of good sportsmanship.

Those are just a few of the events ‘our’ boys or potential Beavers are missing. If you want to know more and do something about it please see Wendy Morris.

Nick Grey

Cub Scout Leader

(Who would assist at Beavers if he could get back from work in time)

It is an interesting fact that the District Census 2001 showed that Beavers and Cubs accounted for more than half the District total!

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Cub Scout Pack Report

One of the delights of running a cub pack is the things that cubs recall most fondly are completely different from their leaders. So I have tried to write this report from their perspective as well as mine.

Despite low and decreasing numbers during the last 12 months we had many activities and cub nights due to joint efforts with other packs and District organised events.

In April we presented Geoff with a programme from our visit to Wembley the previous year (March). Many of our pack activities over the years have initiated from Geoff and he had mentioned many trips to U16/U18 internationals that the group had made in the past.

Nicholas Cortizo returned to the pack after having both feet and legs broken and in plaster for 4 months. Whilst we expect a Scout to have

courage in all difficulties, it takes an exceptional cub to be so cheerful when he was in such pain.

The joint cub camp with 2nd Malden (or 2nd Norden as we called ourselves) was held at Bentley Copse in sheltered accommodation from 1st – 4th June. Many packs in the District can only camp by joining together as they do not have enough warranted leaders to run one themselves, and do so every year. We were fortunate to have so many leaders and helpers going, as the evening before our departure whilst I was putting the shopping in I noticed that some equipment had been moved closer to the door. It was only when I got home that I was confronted with a message that Edress had put his back out again. Our programme rota was rejigged by substituting the name “Magnus” against every activity that Edress was leading!

On camp we put up tents – to sleep in the following night – firelighting, shelter building, open fire cooking, archery, an assault course and air rifle shooting. We also had a 10km hike that included Jonathan Smith (and his wheelchair). Magnus’ navigational skills were good – despite his worries on some minor errors – caused mainly by parallel paths (difficult to correct by compass reading alone) – and a new road that was not there when the map was produced. Roger will tell you that some Scouts have turned the wrong way going out of the camp site.

Andrew Grey and Nicholas Cortizo completed their Adventure Crest Awards and Cub Scout Challenges. This year the Cub of the Year award goes to Jonathan Ewing and The Cub who did his Best goes to Joshua Peck.

A District Fun Day was held at Southwood. There were many activities – rocket launching, badge making, plaster casts, Wimbledon Football Club coaching, assault course and face painting – that is a skill that I never knew that I had. We decided to use paints and make-up for some horrific wounds to keep the first aid tent busy.

The District Swimming Gala was a joint effort with 3rd Malden – whilst we both had small teams – we were even smaller when we both had last minute cancellations from our swimmers. Joint 3rd was our best position for many years – so well done Thomas Palgrave, particularly on finishing 1st in the Final of the 2 lengths freestyle. Well done also to Joshua Peck for cheering from the poolside.

Cooking became a favourite activity during the winter – it is a lot warmer in the kitchen than in the hall. Our new Sixers and Seconders (Joe Dancy,

Jonathan Ewing, Tom Bowes and Tom Palgrave) also decided that they wanted a beach party as well as cook for their parents. We now have a qualified chauffeur – thanks Sue Peck – as well as Roger for training Sue and maintaining Nobby for us.

Goring-On-Sea is a lovely place to visit for a Barbee-On-The-Beach, a game of Aussie Rules, maybe some cricket (some of you Scouts have been there, done that, bought the t-shirt). Only a wacky pack like us would do this in winter. Too wet for a barbee we went for fish and chips, eventually. As for the games on the grass near the beach – the floods had even hit the coast. Someone was water-skiing and flying a kite on our pitch! Our game was interesting and the changes of clothes were well needed. We had several snowball fights and found our fish and chips eventually, at Brighton Pier!

The District Handicraft Exhibition had a lot of entries in various modelling categories – though not from us. Joshua Peck and Jonathon Young won certificates in the 6 fairy cake making categories – well done. As for our pack collage – of cubs in space – see our notice board for another excellent effort.

We said goodbye to Nicholas Cortizo who moved over the summer and to Michael Biddle (though like David Young he may appear again). We welcomed the last of our former Beavers – Christopher Bowes and Jonathan Young. As for those that have moved on to long trousers and more adventurous times (Andrew Grey, Joe Dancy and Tom Bowes) I would be delighted if you could be back helping in the pack in 4-5 years time – just like Magnus has done.

A pack needs a team of committed leaders and helpers. I would like to thank Edress for his support and we wish him well in his work. The pack does need warranted leaders – at least one to open up every night – and it is becoming increasingly difficult for me to be available every pack night. Thanks to Julie Ewing, Philippa and Paul Dancy for being available and helping when needed at short notice – and has meant that Dave, Jamie, Roger, Wendy or our District Team have not received any last minute “Help” calls. But there is no doubt in my mind that our pack would have closed this year without the enormous amount of help and support from Magnus Kelly and Sue Peck – they are the “leaders” who really deserve your appreciations.

Nick Grey Akela

County Cub Fun Event **Frylands Wood 16th June**

Akela went to the County Cub Fun Day with Kingston and Malden District. It was the first big Cub event which 2nd Norbiton have missed as no one wanted to go. Here is a sample of the many activities they that they missed;

Climbing and abseiling, rifle shooting, rocket launching, model making, plaster casts, face painting, dancing clowns, brio railway playing, potato prints, a pirate games base including treasure hunt, fighting pirates with swords and an assault course. There was a fort with a display of fencing and last but not least a tuck shop!

Thanks very much to 1st Malden Cubs for allowing me to accompany them – and our District Team for organising our District’s participation on a County Fun Day.

Nick Grey
Cub Scout Leader

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Australian Beach Party

In February, the Cubs went for a beach party to Australia – Goring-on-Sea on the South coast. We were ‘flown’ there by Sue in Super Nobby II.

When we got there we went on the beach and threw stones in the sea. We then walked along the beach and happily threw lots of snowballs (spongy seaweed) at Magnus. We then went and played Aussie Rules on the very muddy grass. Our goal was in the muddiest part and we all got covered in mud as we fell over. After we put on clean clothes we got into Super Nobby and drove to find some fish and chips. All the shops we found were closed and we drove 35 miles to Brighton Pier before we found some.

We ate our fish and chips on the pier, which was very windy. We went on some rides and bought some pink candyfloss. We bought some Japanese Pokémon cards and then went back to Super Nobby. We wanted to play crazy golf, but it was closed. We got into Super Nobby and we ‘flew’ back from Australia, eating some marsh mellows. We got stuck in an aerial traffic jam and then landed and dropped everyone home.

I enjoyed and it was really good fun and I liked the snowball fight.

Christopher Bowes

Scout Report

The biggest event for the year, in Troop terms was (as always) Summer Camp, round which the Troop traditionally builds its programme.

Summer Camp 2000 was held at Kingsdown International Camp Site in Kent over the period of 7 days, between the 22nd and the 29th July 2000. Camp was preceded by what is becoming an annual event – a trip to the cinema on the night before camp, this time to see ‘Chicken Run’.

There were five Scouts in attendance for the whole period (Magnus Kelly, Thomas Harris, Joshua Palgrave, Michael Rhodes, and Sam Whatley), along with 3 leaders (Jamie, Roger and Myself), Jenny, Leona and Simon. This year, as we were small in number, we managed to cram all the equipment and personal kit into Nobby 2 and Roger’s trailer, negating the requirement for the usual box-Luton van and thus saving a considerable amount of expense! (The equipment van is one of the biggest costs of a Summer Camp and the smaller the number in camp, the harder it gets to keep costs down.) Many thanks to Roger for the use of his trailer – sorry I broke the lights when unloading at the end of Camp!

Many different activities were experienced by the campers, including: Climbing and Abseiling on site; Swimming; Canoeing and Sailing at Dover (two leaders went windsurfing: Jamie was one – no prizes for guessing who the other one was and, no, it wasn’t my weight that broke the boom, despite what you may hear); Grass sledging, Air Rifle Shooting (for which Magnus gained an award for the highest score on the site); and the usual camp badgework and activities. Many of these activities were also at a reduced cost because our Leaders are qualified to teach and run sessions for them, so thanks are due to the commitment the Leaders give to keeping these authorisations current – not to mention the time, effort and expense in gaining them in the first place!

The Troop has not participated in many District events this year, for various reasons. We unfortunately missed the District Air-Rifle competition because, though the entry information was delivered to my house I didn’t actually see it until after the event – sincere apologies to the lads. We did however, put a team (virtually the Troop!) into the Gala and managed to swim ourselves into second place – well done lads!

The Troop (actually one Scout – Magnus again) also took part in the District Mountain Weekend in Snowdonia (organised by us), which, despite the weather was a very enjoyable weekend, staffed by 2nd Norbiton, 7th Malden and 3rd Malden leaders. On the Saturday, one party did manage to ascend Y Garn (in gale force winds nearly blowing us off our feet at times) and the other party climbed to a high level saddle by Tryfan and descended safely. Interestingly I have never before seen a main high street (Bethesda) turn white under hail in two minutes flat – but that’s what it did this time, somehow localised in the

town and missing completely the party still out on the hill. Various climbs were achieved on the Sunday morning in very cold and wet conditions: Rob Moore of 7th Malden VSU volunteered to sit and belay for the abseil – of the three belays, without a doubt the most exposed to the elements. With freezing fingers and occasional squalls blowing through, I suspect most participants were more than happy to retreat to the Base for a hot dinner before the return home. Weather notwithstanding, a good weekend was enjoyed by all.

Panther Patrol have had some Patrol camps during the year, camps that have been greatly enjoyed by all those in attendance. Some Scouts have been very active in Scout Badge Work gaining Pathfinder and Leadership Awards, Musician, Junior Airman, World Conservation, Swimmers and Hobbies and Interests Proficiency Badges.

Numbers in the Troop have stayed at around 12, with feed from the Pack making up for the losses at the upper end. We said goodbye to Adam Ambrose, Vince Dignan, Ben Duffy, Simon Burton, Michael Cranton, Raymond Stokes, Philip Green and Simon Westlake – who has now returned to the Troop. We bade welcome to David Young, Andrew Grey, Joe Dancy and Thomas Bowes. With a subsequent reshuffle of the Troop, Thomas Holmes was appointed PL of Kestrels, Thomas Morris his APL, and Sam Whatley took on the role of APL for Panther Patrol.

On Friday nights the Troop has again run a varied programme, with evenings on basic Scout activities – such as pioneering and compass and mapwork – mingling with other activities such as First Aid, Abseiling, lightweight camping techniques and cooking. The orienteering training was planned to culminate with two exercises – one daytime hike and one night time hike – but this was stopped due to Foot and Mouth. As a result we did not enter the District Orienteering competition. Training also included First Aid practice and CPR with everyone managing to pass.

We also ran a joint evening at our Headquarters with a Troop from Tolworth: one of the parents there was a Scout with 2nd Norbiton at the same time as me, and he popped in Friday night on the off chance to see who was there! He found me of course and one thing led to another. We are planning a return joint evening at their Headquarters some time soon.

I would like to close by saying a great ‘Thank you’ to Jamie and Roger for all their help and support over this difficult year: without you there wouldn’t be a Troop. Your help and friendship to me is incalculable and I thank you for it.

Dave Batten
Scout Leader

A Kestrel amongst the Panthers!

When I agreed to go on patrol camp with Panther patrol, I had no idea what I was letting myself in for. What with foxes, badgers, cooking on open fires, assault courses, go-karts, orienteering and patrol good turns, there was hardly any time to sleep!

We arrived at Downe Scout Campsite to find that we were the ONLY group there – due to foot and mouth panic. This had its compensations as we got the best site – in the forest! Magnus took command right away and told us to get changed, which we all did. We then put up the store tent, which took longer than expected as we thought some of the poles were missing. We eventually got the store tent up and had lunch before putting our own tents up. We then cooked dinner. This was a mini crisis because we could not get the fire started, but we managed to light it. We eventually managed to get the spaghetti and mince on the table even if the spaghetti was like mashed potato. We then washed up and went to bed, or at least we tried to. However we had observed a fox earlier in the day sneaking around our camp, and 5 minutes after climbing into our tents. Mags!!! Michael had heard a fox heading for the store tent. After ten minutes of chasing the foxes away there was half an hour of us calming before we finally slept.

The next morning we woke up to find the rubbish bins in the store tent ransacked. There was much cursing aimed at the foxes before having breakfast and going down to the assault course. There were cable runways, tunnels, even a mangle for us to climb through. We were all rather amused, apart from Magnus, when he managed to get himself stuck in the tunnel! It took him some time to get out!

We then went up to see the warden and he told us that yes there were foxes on the campsite but we also had badgers write behind our clearing. Imagine our joy at this news! We then returned to camp to find that the 'nocturnal' foxes had stolen some sausages and ham because the store tent was left open and I had forgotten to properly secure the lid of the cool box! (sorry guys!)

We then went and had lunch before clearing a small section of the campsite of litter for a patrol good turn and did orienteering. Dinner took a long time to cook that evening and we had to eat and wash up by torch light until about ten at night. We then went and put our rubbish on the woodpile intending to pick it up in the morning when foxes weren't around. When we went to reclaim it in the morning we were glad it hadn't been in the store tent. It was all over the woodpile!!! We then had another litter pick to pick up all the litter we picked up yesterday again! We then threw that in a bin in the car park. We had breakfast and then went pedal go carting.

The warden said that if we sorted out the course, we could do it for free, so we made a really bendy course and raced round it with the result of many collisions at high speed. It was a good job they were not motorised! We then went back the camp, had lunch and packed up which took a substantially larger amount of time than the

putting up and then went back to the hut. There we dumped our equipment and went home to hot baths and showers and the TV for the first time in 3 days. BLISS!!!

It was an enjoyable camp, even if it was really hard work. I am looking forward to Summer camp, because there will be more people to wash up!!

Thomas Morris

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Five aside Football Competition

On Saturday 2nd June a district five a side football competition was organised at Kingsmeadow. After a long struggle recruiting players, in spite of most people being away or unavailable we eventually managed to gather enough people to put in a team.



Our team line up was Michael Rhodes, Thomas Harris, Oliver Zergani, Andrew Grey and myself. The teams were split into two age groups, under 13½ and 15½. Unfortunately with most of our team eleven and twelve years old, my age entered us into the older category. There were two other teams in our group – Leander and a mixed team from 7th Malden and 1st Kingston Hill. We would play both teams twice.

Our first match was against a mixed team from 7th Malden and 1st Kingston Hill. We were not well organised at the start and as a result let in two goals in the first half. In the second half we played a lot better and thanks to some good saves by Oliver we did not concede any more goals. In the second match against Leander we were playing against a much older team and they easily got through our defence and we lost the match five – nil. After a quick break and some diced oranges we went out to play 7th Malden and 1st Kingston Hill again. We played more strongly than we did in the first match but they still managed to score the only goal of the first half. In the second half we started attacking more and we were all rewarded as Tom provided us with our first goal of the tournament. Then just moments later we could not believe our luck as Tom knocked in a second to put us in the lead. We then desperately tried to hang on to keep our lead as our opponents surged forward, but at last the full time whistle was blown. After a brief rest we went back onto the pitch to face Leander again. For the first half we seemed to have almost matched Leander and only let in one goal. However we had some injuries in the second half and they managed to score three more goals.

We finished third in our group only missing second place on goal difference. Against teams of much higher ages this was a good result for our younger team. Everyone on the team played courageously against players who were at times twice the height of some people. Well done to all of those who took part at such short notice.

Magnus Kelly

Group Honours

Cub Scout Pack

Ji Ho Choi Invested as Cub Scouts
Jack Lelyveld
Nathan Bache

Joshua Peck Appointed as Sixer

Scout Troop

Andrew Grey Invested as Scouts
Tom Bowes

Magnus Kelly World Conservation Badge
Thomas Morris
David Young

Magnus Kelly Patrol Activity Award

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That is the end of the 17th Edition of Light to the Right. I hope everyone enjoys their summer holidays and takes care. Happy camping to all those going on various camps in the summer and thank you to the Leaders for organising these camps and for allowing us to have the fun we have had over the past year.

Group Directory

Cub Pack:

Nick Grey
(Cub Leader)

Eidress Khier
(Assistant Cub Leader)

Scout Troop:

Dave Batten
(Scout Leader)

Jamie McConnon
(Assistant Scout Leader)

Roger Howard
(Venture Scout Leader,
QM and Minibus Carer)

Executive Committee:

Wendy Morris
(Chair)

Pam Farley
(Treasurer)

Mhairi Kelly
(Secretary)

Church Army:

Aidan Greenwood