

New Chief Scout

Bear Grylls will be the new Chief Scout of the UK Scout Association. The famous adventurer takes over when current Chief Scout, former Blue Peter presenter Peter Duncan, completes his five year tenure in July.

When asked why he chose to volunteer for the UK's largest mixed youth movement, Bear said: 'In short, because I love adventure and I love hanging out with good friends. For me this is what Scouting is about.'

Born on 7 June 1974, Bear Grylls will be the youngest ever Chief Scout. He first got involved in Scouting aged eight as a Cub Scout. Bear attributes this time as part of the inspiration behind his adult adventures presenting TV shows such as Born Survivor: 'So much of who we are as an adult is formed when we are kids,' said Bear. 'What Scouting says to people is: "it's okay to go for it in life".'

'Every child has a right to have an adventure. Life is about grabbing opportunities. The prizes don't always go to the biggest, the best and the strongest – they go to those who persevere. These are simple life lessons that Scouting teaches people.'

The Chief Scout provides inspiration for the 100,000 adult volunteers involved in Scouting across the UK.

The position was created in 1920 with the appointment of Robert Baden-Powell, who founded the Scout Movement in 1908.



Working together for Scouting

Working in partnership with Bear will be Scouting volunteer Wayne Bulpitt, who takes on the new role of UK Chief Commissioner. Wayne will focus on providing leadership to all volunteers within Scouting. Like Bear, Wayne's Scouting began when he joined as a Cub Scout.

'I am delighted to have been invited to take on this position at such an exciting time,' said Wayne. 'The successes of the last few years mean that we are well placed to make the most of a high public profile and fulfil our vision of providing personal development and exciting opportunities to increasing numbers of young people.'

Providing adventure to the UK's young people

Bear and Wayne join 100,000 Scout volunteers who give up their time to provide adventurous activities to 400,000 6-25 year olds.

Scouting is more popular than ever, with adult volunteering increasing at the fastest rate for 23 years and just as many girls as boys now joining. Despite this, demand still outstrips supply and waiting lists remain at an all-time high due to the need for more adult volunteers.

By volunteering for Scouting you not only benefit from supporting young people, you also gain from developing yourself.

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Editorial Team

Co-Editors; Dennis Rolls. 57, Chase Cross Road, Collier Row, Romford. RM5 3PL (01708) 747150

Stan Lucas. (Fellowship Secretary) 86, Willow Street, Romford, Essex. RM7 7LB (01708) 767089

Design and Production: Graham Lucas. 86, Fairfax Drive, Westcliff on Sea, SS0 9AF (01702) 303408

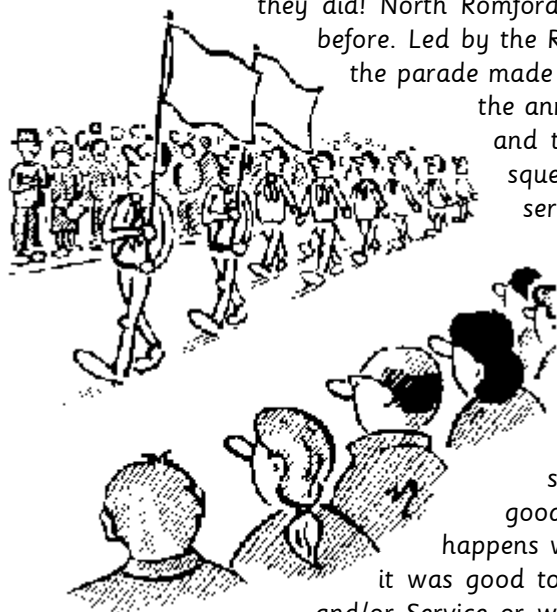
Email: fellowship.news@blueyonder.co.uk

With thanks to Scouting Magazine for 'A Canny Crack' and certain articles.



The Big Day

26th April, and the nearest Sunday to St Georges' Day. It had been hoped for a big turn out and turn out they did! North Romford know that there are Scouts about even if they did not know so before. Led by the Romford Citadel Salvation Army Band and the District Colour Party,



the parade made their way through Collier Row to Corpus Christi Catholic Church for the annual service. The Salute was taken by the Deputy Mayor of Havering and the District Commissioner. Once everyone was inside the Church - squeezed in, pushed in and stacked two deep down the sides - the service was conducted by Rev Sean Sheils and Rev Martin Howes with other clergy in attendance. The Band played for the hymns and younger members were involved with the Reading and the Prayers and all Sections renewed their Promise. The talk was given by the Secretary of Romford and District Scout Fellowship. There will no doubt be a full report in the District News of the Parade and Service.

After the Service the 4th Collier Row Group and supporters laid on refreshments in the Corpus Christi Club. It was good to see Leaders mixing and chatting together, something that only happens when an occasion like this arises. Although not a Fellowship activity it was good to see some 31 Fellowship members either involved with the parade and/or Service or with their Groups. Some of the folk we spotted were members who, because of maturity & medical problems, are not always able to attend functions. We wonder if the Leaders of today realise the debt they owe to the 'golden oldies' who have helped mould Scouting into what it is today or how many hundreds of young folk benefit by the foundation laid by these stalwarts. All praise to them, most of whom get great satisfaction in knowing that they did their best for many years, possibly without recognition or praise.

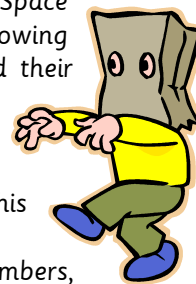
Congratulations to 2nd Romford on winning the Dyer Cup.

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Mini-Olympics Beaver Scouts Sports 9th May 2009

England need have no fear about the number of medals that will be won in future Olympics if the enthusiasm of the Beaver Scouts is anything to go by. As long as the future Olympics included Space Hoppers, Egg & Spoon Races, Sack Races and a Mini Obstacle Race plus the dreaded Wellie Throwing event we will do well. Worthington Hall grounds were a hive of activity when the Colonies and their Leaders took over for the afternoon. Plenty of enthusiasm and effort went into every race and it was a pleasure to see the younger members of the Movement enjoying themselves. Once again congratulations to the Beaver Scout Section for getting it right. Explorer Scouts acted as judges on the Finish Line and as runners, returning the equipment back to the start line where Andy and his whippers-in made sure that the next line of competitors were ready.

First Aid, Gate Security and the bottomless tea pot were all in the hands of Fellowship members, who also set up the course and dismantled it all after the event. Thanks to all who gave up the time to support the youngest members of Romford Scouting.



—ooOoo—

St Georges Competition Cub Scout Section 10th May 2009

The Crow Camp Service Crew was in action when the Cub Scouts held their annual Competition. Those people who seem to be invisible to most were there supplying tea and coffee, the Tuck Shop, the First Aid coverage and the car parking and road control and also solving small problems like finding tent pegs, rope etc - all part of the service provided.

Eight Packs took part and all credit to them for the way they all entered into the spirit of the event. 3rd Harold Hill won the Trophy, 10th Romford took second place, with 2nd Romford in an honourable third place.

We hope the Cubs appreciated the fact that their Leaders had given up their Sunday to make the event possible.

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All The Fun Of The Fair

On Saturday 16th May, despite gale force (it seemed) ,winds and horrible dark rain laden clouds the green of Havering Village was once again transformed into a traditional Summer Fete cum Fund Raising Fair...or Fayre as the posh call it.

When testing the giant inflatable it looked as if it might take off and land in the wilds of Essex, but it stayed put....one of the smaller tents did not fare so well with the wind deciding to write it off despite all efforts of those trying to erect the tent.



By 1pm everything was ready for the Opening. Big Teddy and Little Willie, out tame clowns, were there entertaining the younger visitors and selling programmes. The Hornchurch Lions train was soon collecting passengers , as was the Big Buggy roundabout. The Smashing Crockery and Coconut Shy were attracting lots of people and we saw two people win coconuts - we always thought they were glued on! (said very much tongue in cheek). The only place not doing a trade was the First Aid tent (thank goodness). The arena featured non-stop dancing displays which the crowds enjoyed. The dancers included younger folk in the Harmony Group, Country Dancers, Eastern Dancing and Morris Dancers complete with their band. (We apologise to the ladies of Eastern Dancing if this is the incorrect term, but after seeing parts of their anatomy shaking about it did not seem the act of a gentleman to ask what their dancing was called).

As usual, the refreshments in the church hall were very popular and there was little left when the event closed.

We spotted 10 Fellowship members involved in giving ‘Active Support’ and we hope the afternoon added a good sum of money to the mini-bus appeal. Here’s to 2010!

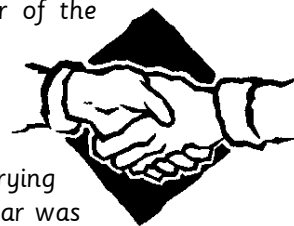
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Fellowship Annual General Meeting 21st May 2009

28 Members and friends attended the AGM at District HQ, with apologies from a further 15, who we thank them for their courtesy. The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting, with a special welcome to our speaker for the evening Ron Jeffries - one time Editor of Scouting Magazine, a position he held for 11 years. David Partridge led the Opening Prayer, remembering ‘those of our membership who were unable to be with us due to various medical problems.’

Minutes of the AGM held 19th June 08 were agreed and accepted. The printed Reports were accepted as was the adoption of the Accounts.

The Chairman invited the District Commissioner, Paul Leeper to address the Meeting. Paul said that this was the last time he would address the meeting as DC, but would still be a member of the Fellowship. He apologised for not wearing his Fellowship scarf but he had been Investing Beaver Scouts - hence his Gilwell scarf. Paul looked back and thanked those who had helped him along the way, as present Leaders were doing in their turn. Dennis and Stan were Leaders in the District who had helped him. He recalled various events such as presenting the same breakfast twice at a Franklin Shield Competition and spending ages trying to balance an egg because Ron Jeffries had told the group that at only one time in the year was



it possible to do so. Paul concluded by saying that Scouting is very rewarding and that Romford is a good District and has a good Fellowship who are always willing to help. As DC he had appreciated their help and support. The meeting showed their appreciation of Pauls talk

A logo for a 20-year Long Service Award, featuring a stylized infinity symbol and the number 20.

Paul presented Margaret Polden with a 20 years Long Service Award and Stan Lucas with a 40 year Long Service Award.

A logo for a 40-year Long Service Award, featuring a stylized infinity symbol and the number 40.

The present Committee of Eve Smith, Pam Davies, Fred Cornish and John Jones, being willing to serve for a further year, were re-elected en-block. Stan Lucas was re-elected as Secretary and Ted Rose as Treasurer.

There then followed a break for refreshments, with thanks to Pat and Betty for overseeing the tea, coffee, cakes and biscuits. During the break a Raffle was held aid of the Scout Holiday Homes Trust resulting in £45 being raised.

The Chairman, Ted Rose, introduced Ron Jeffries (“It’s All In ‘The Book”), by quoting from a copy of the County Bulletin dated 1967 when Ron was appointed ADC Leader Training. Who remembers his exploding tin can and the humour injected into

training?

Ron started by saying that the Raffle might have seemed to have taken a long time but it was not a record; he had been at a function where the Draw started at 9pm and was still going on at 10.45, there being 198 prizes.



He was now 76 and explained his family. He had been a Wolf Cub at 7 and when his age was found out was asked to come back when he was 8 - he came back to Scouting after National Service. Ron had been a JP for 21 years and was the Chairman of the Bench. More recently he had been involved with the Redbridge Night Shelter, where help was given to the homeless. Due to Government financial aid more facilities are being put in place that are an improvement in helping the homeless on their journey to normal life. As we were reminded, It's all in the book - copies of which were on sale after the Meeting.

Those present showed how much they had enjoyed an interesting and amusing talk.

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Need Money?

If you wish to earn money for your Group (or pet charity) here is the chance to collect cash without having to run a few Jumble Sales or coffee mornings etc.

The Scout Fellowship will once again be running their Challenge at Crow Camp. All you have to do is get yourselves sponsored then turn up at Crow Camp and go round the simple course. A Certificate is proved to show how many laps you have completed, this helps when you collect the money from your sponsors. What could be simpler? OK, so the Challenge is not until 11th July, but start thinking about it now. All members connected with a Group can start discussing it at Scouters Meetings etc so that we will get hundreds turn up on the day.



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Birthday Greetings

We wish many happy returns to members celebrating birthdays in June. Those who are another year older this month include:-

Geoff Hutton, John James and Margaret Lovett.

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Sick and Wounded

We hope that all of you that have any ailments at the moment are on the road to recovery.

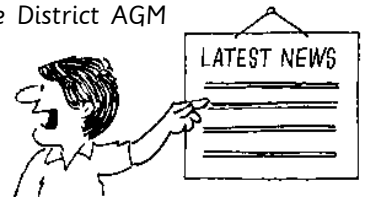
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The Annual General Meeting Season

We hope to see a good representation of Fellowship members at the District AGM on Saturday 13th June 09. The formal business will be dealt with in the usual professional way followed by a barbeque to which everyone is invited.

The County AGM will take place at James Hawkey Hall on Wednesday 17th June at 8pm. Come and enjoy an excellent buffet before the Meeting.

Details of the District AGM are in the District News and the County AGM in North East.



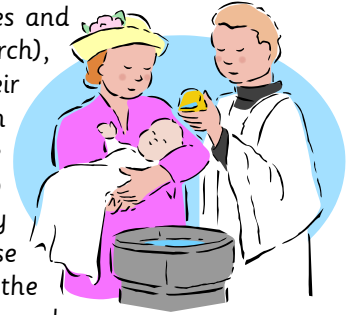
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Publicity

On the morning of 27th May saw the appearance of the Chief Scout on BBC TV 'Breakfast' and opinion is that he gave a good boost to Scouting, aided by two young ladies, one an Explorer Scout, the other a Leader. Despite questions by the presenters of the programme the Chief was clever enough not to answer in a way that would have Leaders reaching for their pens or cranking up their computers to send emails had he said the wrong thing.

The Chaplain writes:-

There are those who seem to have the impression that a member of the Clergy only works one day a week, with perhaps ten minutes or so spent in writing a Sermon or two. If only it were true but I am not complaining, I enjoy doing what I chose as my calling many years ago. You have to keep on your toes and know what the younger members of the Sunday School (we now call it Junior Church), watch on their TV programmes, or who plays for which football team. Boys have their football heroes and the girls have their favourite TV or film stars. Young wives - I pop in for a cuppa and unless anyone wants to talk to me - pop out again and leave the ladies to discuss whatever it is they discuss. My favourite group is the Wednesday Club for anyone who wants to attend, they don't have to be Church members. The elderly are often overlooked but they have a lot to offer and they often speak a lot of sense gained through years of experience. Trying to avoid any suggestion of bias, both the Scouts and Guides have to be treated the same and I admire the dedication and hard work by their Leaders on behalf of their organisations. Did I mention the phone that seems to ring night and day with requests for advice or help? When a child dies the parents often expect the Church to provide the comfort that the parents are seeking and I still find it difficult to cope with this. Weddings and funerals all have to be dealt with.



So when you see your Vicar remember he is a human being with all the daily problems of anyone else.

Rev Charles West.
St Matthews Church - Bury

—ooOoo—

On With The Show

Some young folk are often classified as badly behaved, badly mannered yobs. In Scouting and Guiding we see that the majority of younger people are not like this but have respect and confidence and are willing to help in their community.

These attributes came to the fore in the 2009 production of Showstoppers at the Kenneth More Theatre from 29th April to 2nd May 09. Many adults would find it nerve racking to walk on to a stage and so the younger folk might have 'nerves' but there was little sign of any of this as the curtain went up. From start to finish the professionalism and commitment was obvious from the youngest to those who were a little



older and more used to treading the boards. For all those in the spotlight there was a gang behind the scenes, never seen, but doing just as good a job handling the many changes of costume, the scenery and the props - keeping the production going smoothly from 'curtain up' to 'curtain down'! Good singing, with some memorable voices, not counting the hilarious Redbridge Ladies Male Voice Choir of course! Traditional Ralph Reader Songs and modern music were all part of the programme including memories of Barnum and South Pacific, both of which had been produced on the London stage. We wonder how the stilt walkers in the circus scene managed

to keep their balance with the dozens of 'artistes' going through their 'on stage' movements! Bill & Ben the Flowerpot Men and the actions of the 'invisible man' together with the clever Rooks scene were favourites of the younger members of our group. Pity we did not get a chance to applaud the musicians whom we never saw, they did good work the whole evening.

It takes a lot to put on a performance like Showstoppers, as anyone who has ever been involved with Gang Shows will tell you. The hours of rehearsal, getting sponsorship, painting scenery and getting all the 'props'. Not forgetting the making and the fitting of the many costumes - all things that many in the audience will never realise happens.

Congratulations to the Scouts from Greater London North East and the Guides from Over The Border. Here's to 2010!

—ooOoo—

The Perfect Answer

We think we may have stumbled on the perfect way to keep a large group of Cub Scouts quiet, at least for a while. On a visit to the Science Museum in Kensington we met up with a group of Cub Scouts from Hampshire and like other young folk they found plenty of things to keep the excitement going. Our first contact was in the exhibition called A World Of Cracking ideas. So many things to do and 'have a go at', it was good to see them

enjoying themselves. The adults were admiring the different sets used in the making of the Wallace & Gromit films and the amazing detail of everything, and almost all said that they did not realise the models of W & G were so small.

Next contact with them was in the IMAX 3D Cinema. The film was about monsters of the seas in prehistoric times projected onto an enormous screen the height of three double decker buses. Once the film started, because of modern technology and the help of the special glasses, we were surrounded by monsters that came out of the screen into your lap, or in a shoal of shrimp like creatures that swam past your ear. Not a movement from the Cub Scouts for best part of an hour. So there you have the answer, the IMAX cinema. There is an entry fee to the cinema and the W & G Exhibition so it is certainly not a cheap excursion but there are probably 'group' tickets.



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It Actually Happened

A person walked into a well known hamburger restaurant with a Buy One Get One Free coupon. Taking the coupon the girl looked at a Buy One Get One Free notice on the wall and said that as there was already an offer the person did not have to pay anything.

Lady at an airport complained at the: customer Services Desk that her case had not come down the chute. "Don't Worry" said the manager, "we will soon sort it out, has your plane landed yet?"

A group were walking down the beach when a child said "Look at that dead bird", and everyone looked up.



In the Supermarket the assistant rang up £18.50. a £20 note was handed over and the customer was amazed to be handed £18.50 in change. The customer handed over the money and said that a mistake had been made in her favour. Assistant got indignant and implied that she was highly trained and did not make mistakes and handed the money back to the customer; twice more the customer insisted that the mistake be rectified but in the end had to give up and went home with the £18.50.

They Walk Among Us.

Thanks to the LTSA Newsletter.

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WHY?

- Do people say that they slept like a baby when babies wake every few hours?
- Why do people pay to go up tall buildings then use binoculars to look at things on the ground?
- Why do Doctors ask you to undress behind a screen when they are going to see you naked anyway?
- If we evolved from apes, why are there still apes?
- Why does a round pizza come in a square box?
- Can you cry under water?
- Why did Kamikaze pilots wear helmets?
- Why, in films, did Tarzan never grow a beard?
- If it's true that we are here to help others, what are the others doing?

—ooOoo—

A Canny Crack

The trouble with inflation is that it now takes twice as much money for a Group to live beyond its means than it used to.

If I spent as much time doing the things I worry about getting done, as I do worrying about them, I wouldn't have anything to worry about.

The best thing parents can spend on their children is time - not money.