

3rd Buxton (Harpur Hill) Scouts Section Report 2009

The Scout troop has 18 Scouts, all regularly attending meetings on Monday nights. We have been joined by 8 new Scouts during the year, and have 4 Scouts about to move on to Centurion Explorers.

We aim to do regular hikes throughout the year. This year we have done 8 hikes. These hikes give the Scouts the chance to improve their navigation skills and make sure they can look after themselves when out in the wilds of Derbyshire.

We had a busy start to the year, with one night spent canoeing at Buxton Pool; a very popular event. This was followed a couple of weeks later with a team entered into the District Scouts hockey competition.

Our Easter camp at Gradbach had a theme of camp cooking, with the Scouts trying a variety of cooking methods. We managed to survive the whole weekend without poisoning anyone. Our next camp was the District camp in May. District camp is a brilliant opportunity to try all sorts of activities for all Scouts, Cubs and Beavers in the District. There were over 450 people on the camp and activities included climbing, kayaking, archery, grass-sledging and assault course. The Beavers joined us on the Saturday and teamed up with the Scouts to take part in a huge its-a-knockout competition.

A project that ran through the year, which really captured the Scouts' imagination, was the Global Challenge badge. This included a fund-raising activity to pay for a goat and a water project in India.

Summer camp this year was held at Walesby Forest. Fourteen Scouts went on camp where we did kayaking, climbing, rafting, pioneering and generally had a good time.

The end of summer is time for the Border Hike. This is a competition held at Gradbach for teams from all over the country. It tests the Scouts skills in hiking, map reading and route planning. Our teams had a brilliant competition. Unfortunately the hike is not a timed hike, because, for the second year running our two teams were the first and second teams home - not bad considering it was a staggered start and they were not the first teams to start out. However, the results showed that they had also performed well at the challenges around the course, and our teams came in 2nd and 5th in the competition.

Next year's summer camp is Peak 2010: a massive national Scout camp at Chatsworth. We will have 22 Scouts and Explorers at the camp. We have been fundraising to help us meet some of the costs and to buy some new kit. This fundraising started with a Morrisons bag pack in November. Thanks to all Scouts and parents who helped us raise over £800.

Another big Scouting event that we are looking forward to is the World Scout Jamboree in Sweden in 2011. Places for this event are limited; the District had just four places allocated for Scouts and Explorers. We were pleased to have two of our Scouts selected after a tough day of activities and interviews.

The final camp of the year was the Christmas camp, at Gradbach farm house. The Scouts were joined by the Beavers on the Saturday. It was great to see the Scouts and Beavers getting on well together. The Scouts prepared an assault course for the Beavers and paired up with them to help the Beavers around the course. The highlight of the day was the wide-game that had Scouts and Beavers searching in the dark for "radioactive" reindeer poo.

T'was the last Scout night before Christmas - and the treat at the end of the year - was to go up to Swains Go-Karting - to see who was the Scouts "Top Gear". It was cold, dark, wet and great fun.

Cath, Paul, Rhiannon & Chris