

3rd Buxton (Harpur Hill) Scouts Section Report

We currently have 16 scouts, all of them regularly attending meetings on a Monday night. Numbers increased overall by two from the beginning of 2007, and are expected to increase again this year.

It has been back to basics with the scouts this year, with our main aim being to improve the “standard scouting skills” of the kids (camping, navigating, knots etc). Other evening activities included a night hike, first-aid training, a treasure hunt, woggle-making and camp-cooking, as well as frequent and repeated sessions learning about knots and lashings.

The training was put to use in February with a hike from Buxton to Gradbach. Although one team had a few issues with finding the way (Cath!), everyone made it in the end.

Along with many other groups, 3rd Buxton Scouts participated in the High Peak District Centenary camp at Gradbach, with eight scouts attending. Though extremely soggy, the weekend was enormously enjoyable.

July was a busy month, with the Buxton Wells Dressing, the group Sunrise Event, and the scout section’s summer activity camp. Wide games are always a favourite, and no self-respecting scout would say no to a burger, so the Sunrise event was a lot of fun. We also had eight scouts for the summer activity camp at Hesley Wood Campsite in late July. While meeting attendance is high, we don’t get as many scouts going on the camps as we’d like, and are working at encouraging more to come along. The Hesley Wood camp was still a success, however, with carting, kayaking and archery on offer, as well as more traditional wood-chopping, cooking and pioneering activities.

The scouts tested what they’d learned this year by competing in the Border Hike event in September, which involved navigating a circular route from Gradbach and taking part in various activities. The challenges included knotting, logic puzzles and navigation. Their hard work paid off, with our two teams coming in 2nd and 8th out of 24.

The final away-event of the year was the indoor residential at Gradbach in November. The high point of the weekend was the successful flight of two tissue-paper hot-air balloons, which lasted a surprisingly long time before being drenched by the dew and falling apart!

We are following on from last year’s theme this year, by focussing on lightweight camping and hiking, and one of our aims is to come 1st in the Border Hike!