

## **Great Big Sports Challenge**

On the 1st of July the Girls Brigade held their inaugural Great Big Sports Challenge. The girls were joined by 20 of Darton Cub Scouts, members of kids allowed, members of the church and numerous parents making a total of roughly 100 participants. Everyone was quickly split into teams and sent outside to choose which activities and events they wanted to complete. We were blessed with the weather and therefore able to take advantage of the outside space allowing everyone to have a go at welly wanging, scooter racing, various water games, space hopper challenges, golf, splat the rat and many more. After an hour and a half of fun the scores for each event were collected and whilst everyone enjoyed refreshments, ice creams, cakes and sweets the scores were amalgamated in order to identify the winning team. This time the top spot was shared by Team Pop (our girls' brigade senior team) and Team Stringer (one of the cub teams) who shared a large tub of celebrations as their prize.

The evening was a great success and raised £160 towards our annual fees. Thank you to everyone who supported us on the night and a big thank you to our Brigaders who helped set up and run the various games. I hope everyone enjoyed themselves as I'm told we may hold a similar event next year.

## **District Celebration Day**

On the 12th of July 1st Yorkshire District met at Kexborough for our 'Into Africa' activity day. The girls started the day by hearing about Kim, Eleanor and Rachel's time in South Africa at the international Girls' Brigade Gathering and with Out of Africa Missions. They learnt that there is Girl's Brigade not just in this country, not just in Europe but around the whole world.

The girls made some amazing sand art pictures of African safari animals and they took part in an African drumming session. They all had a go on the drums and percussion instruments and even had the chance to dress up in African outfits. After a picnic in the sun the older girls made a video of the Girls' Brigade Girl Declaration which was written at the Gathering from girls for around the world. The younger girls drew pictures showing why they love Girls' Brigade. The weather was lovely all day and we enjoyed playing games outside including flip flop throwing and the natural disaster game!

We had a show and tell session and we finished with a short devotional time where the girls learnt that a drum circle has no hierarchy, the circle creates a community, drums transform wood into a joyous sound and everyone in a drum circle is important. We linked this with God treating everyone equally, that we are all important to God, that we are all part of the Christian community, that God transforms us in to something joyous and a circle has no beginning and no end like God's love for us, going on and on. Everyone had a great day and was summed up by one girl who said 'I can tell this day is going to be awesome!'

## **Camp**

This years camp was from the 21st to the 25th July at the Green Gables Hotel in Scarborough. This year Kexborough had three juniors, one senior, together with Rebecca, Kim and myself (plus Lydia). As it was only a small camp this year officers took their cars to transport the girls as the cost of the coach was very high.

### **Monday**

We all met at Kexborough ready to leave for the journey to Scarborough at about 9.30. We arrived in sunny Scarborough just before 12 and after putting our luggage into what would be our lounge for the week we enjoyed our picnic in the park behind the hotel. It wasn't long before we took our first walk to the beach and a paddle in the sea, keeping to the camp rule "below the knees". The girls had lots of fun managing to get very wet and sandy. After lots of fun on the beach it was time to take the nice walk back up the hill to the hotel where we were given our rooms and had some time to unpack before dinner. The girls had all built up an appetite and there were soon plenty of empty plates. After dinner we had our first camp devotions, learning that Jesus invited us all to follow Him. A busy day was finished with a good swim in the hotels pool before supper and bed.

### **Tuesday**

We woke up on Tuesday morning to a lovely blue sky and a hot day. After breakfast and morning devotions we set off on a long walk to Peasholm Park, after walking through the park we caught the train to the sea life centre for our planned visit. We had a great day visiting penguins, seals and a whole variety of sea animals. The girls all completed the centres quiz, finding all the stamps and getting their medals. We boarded the train for the return trip to Peasholm Park. The girls and some leaders had time for a trip on the log flume and a ride on the pedal boats while the rest of us sat watching them while eating ice creams and listening to the old gentleman playing his organ in the bandstand in the lake. Again a nice walk back up the hill in time for dinner and some crafts. Today's words were deeper and deeper, we ended our devotions by making paper boats, writing our prayers on them and then floating them in our little lake. (a tray of water).

### **Wednesday**

Kims mum (Julie) and niece (Rosie) were setting off early by train to spend the day with us. By the time we were ready for morning devotions they had arrived. We walked into Scarborough centre taking in a visit to see the lifeboat station (and shop!) before walking onto where the speed boats were operating. By now Vicky, an officer with Smithies, and her three children had arrived in Scarborough for the day. Twelve girls and leaders took a trip on the speed boat, while the rest of us waited on the harbour side for their return. As we made our way to the beach we were joined by Mr & Mrs Mottershaw and Sam (a Smithies officers parents and son). Lots of fun was had on the beach building sandcastles and paddling in the sea as well as eating our lunch. After a walk back through the shops, a visit to a cafe for refreshments we were soon back at the hotel in time for dinner. Once again we went for a swim in the hotels pool before supper and bed.

## **Thursday**

This was a very special day for one of our girls at camp. It was Megans 10th birthday. She woke up to find balloons and banners on her bedroom door. When she came down to the lounge she was given cards and a present and everyone sang Happy Birthday. At dinner time a cake and candles appeared and everyone sang to her again.

Thursdays planned activity was a treasure hunt, and although it involved a lot of walking up some steep hills and down a very steep pebbled/rock path (not made to push a buggy along). Everyone had a really good morning joining in and seeing parts of Scarborough that we don't normally get chance to see. Thursdays word for devotions was for ever and for crafts we used the footprint poem and all decorated glass footprints to remind us that Jesus is always with us.

Thursday night was fair night so after getting changed and having dinner we jumped into the cars and drove down to the fairground. The girls had a great time on the rides, with Kims help Lydia even went on a couple. There was a bit of disappointment when the fair closed but it was a good end to a great day.

## **Friday**

The last day of camp arrived very quickly, we had all had a great week and we were going to make our last day a good one. After lots of packing and lifting luggage into the cars we were ready for our final devotions of the week. We reflected on all the things we had thought about during the week before joining together to sing the vesper, remembering to change "at the end of one more day" to "at the end of one more camp". We were soon on our way to the John Bull Rock factory in Bridlington. We all had a go at rolling rock and making chocolate lollies before having some time in the shop. We then had a short trip to a nearby park/shopping area for our picnic and run around before setting off home. I think we tired the girls out during the week as quite a few of them fell asleep for the journey home. We all arrived safely back at Kexborough where the girls were reunited with their families.

## **Camp charity**

Each year at camp we choose a charity to support. This year it was the Pippa Jones Little Treasure Trust, a charity raising funds for families who have children with cancer. The charity was set up in 2010 by a work colleague of one of our officers in district. Following the death of her daughter just before her fourth birthday. Among other things they provide bags packed with games and toys for children with cancer and smaller treasure bags for their brothers and sisters. The children bought teddies etc from a stall and some money was donated raising nearly £50 for the charity.

## **Devotions**

The theme for our devotions this year was “Wider, deeper, greater, forever” and we looked at four stories from Matthews gospel.

Wider and wider – The invitation to follow Jesus – Matthew 9 v 9 to 13 – Jesus started to invite a few to follow Him, but this spread wider and wider, even to unpopular people.

Deeper and deeper – the trust in Jesus – Matthew 8 v 23 to 27 – the disciples followed Jesus into the boat, into the storm and discovered more about Jesus and what it means to trust Him when he calmed the storm.

Greater and greater – the love of Jesus – Matthew 26 v 36 to 41, 50, 56: 27 v 27 to 46, 50 & 54 – Jesus’ death on the cross was not the end. He chose to die because he loved us – his love is greater than we can ever think. We can love Him in return and become followers of Jesus for ever.

For ever and ever – friendship with Jesus – Matthew 28 v 1 to 10 – The amazing story of how Jesus came back to life. He is alive today and we can be His followers for ever. He wants us to go and tell others that Jesus is alive for ever.

Our memory verse for the week was – Ephesians 3 v 18

“I pray that you, together with all Gods people, will have the power to understand how broad and long, how high and deep is Christ’s love.

### **How can we make it better?**

We only had a small number of girls on camp this year, how good it would be if next year we could take more. Please pray for the girls and their families that when details of next years camp are available we will have more people wanting to go so that they too can share in the great fun, fellowship, friendship and Gods love that we have all shared this week.

### **To summarise camp...**

I think Kim said it all in her final posting on our camp blog.

“Hi all, just want to say a thank you to all the other leaders for a fantastic week. Thank you to all the girls, especially the Kexborough gang for being so well behaved and no trouble to look after. Also thank you to the girls parents who supported the girls to come to camp. We have had an amazing week where we have seen friendships blossom, girls encouraged to do things they might not have usually done and seen that “look” on their faces when we talked about Gods love for them. It has been a privilege to share this week.”

## Company finance

As most of you know we had our fees to pay to headquarters in April. Our company funds did not have enough in them to cover the cost and we appealed for help, as well as looking into our weekly fees etc.

Thank you to everyone who answered our call for help. Since our appeal we have raised;-

160	Great Big Sports Challenge
361	Donations
044	Sale of cakes/refreshments
<b>565</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>

We have now been able to pay our annual fees.

We have increased the cost of our weekly subscriptions to £2 (explorers still £1.50) and introduced a new tuck shop, in the hope that this will help us have enough funding when our fees become due again next April.

The Webb Ivory Christmas catalogues have arrived and will be on display for anyone who wishes to order cards, paper, presents or just something for yourself. Any profits made from the Christmas catalogues goes directly into company funds.

Thank you to everyone who has supported us financially during the last few months, your support is much appreciated.

Our company restarts on Tuesday 9th September 2014 at 6.30. We look forward to seeing old members and welcoming new ones.