



A FERRY GOOD TIME: City Scouts gather for the jamboree at Ferry Meadows. (7PF0526458)

Scouts do their best in the wet at jamboree

HUNDREDS of youngsters braved the wind and rain for a long weekend of camping to celebrate the centenary of the Scouting movement.

Ignoring torrential rain and buffeting winds, more than 1,000 Scouts, Cubs and Beavers pitched their tents for fun-packed camps to mark the special event.

More than 600 youngsters and leaders set up camp in Peterborough's popular beauty spot, Ferry Meadows Country Park, while hundreds more took part in events at Burghley House, in Stamford, and at a campsite in March.

The youngsters were just some of the thousands of Scouts holding camps this weekend to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the first-ever Scout camp, organised by Lord

Baden-Powell at Brownsea Island, in Dorset, in June 1907.

While the 20 boys on that momentous camp enjoyed balmy spring weather, our own Scouts had to put up with driving wind and rain for almost the entire weekend.

However, Baden-Powell would surely have been bursting with pride if he could have seen the famous Scout spirit shown by the city's boys and girls over the Bank Holiday.

One of those brave boys was 11-year-old Stephen Payne, a pupil at William de Yaxley Primary School, who had just been made an assistant patrol leader at the 46th Yaxley Scout Troop.

He said: "The camp has been brilliant - we've hardly noticed the weather, because we've been having so much fun.

"The best bit was the camp fire on

Saturday night, where we had lots of songs and a talent show.

"My group performed a sketch about a camel called Humphrey, which ended with someone getting sprayed in the face with water. It was really funny.

"Scout camps are always really fun and you have lots of barbecues, eat loads of food and do plenty of different activities."

Stephen's fellow Scout from the Yaxley troop, nine-year-old Joseph Bernard, a pupil at Holme Primary School, also ignored the rain to enjoy himself.

He said: "I really enjoyed the canoeing on the lake, even though I fell out of the boat.

"We also went on a pedalo, did some glass-making and there's been loads of races and football matches. It's been great fun.

"The only annoying thing was having to wash up, but even that can be fun when you're with your friends."

Camp organiser Gillian Mason, assistant district commissioner for the Nene area, said: "We had lots of fun things happening, including some back-to-basics activities around woodcraft, which took place on the first camp on Brownsea Island.

"There was a great feeling of fellowship among all the different troops. Whenever there was a problem, such as a leaking tent, everyone was willing to 'lend a hand', which is one of the Scouts' mottos.

"The children seem to have hardly noticed the weather. In fact, it's the adults who were feeling the cold."

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By JACK GROVE

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FUN, FUN, FUN: Clockwise, from top left, Jade Gillespie rides the bucking camel at Burghley (7AL0526410), Alison Buttery helps 2nd Stamford Beavers make decorations in the craft tent (7AL0526426), James has fun with his water squitter at Ferry Meadows (7PF0526474), 3rd Nene leader Pete Lumley demonstrates rope making to Ashley and Jordan at Ferry Meadows (7PF0526483), and youngsters have some fun in sumo suits at Burghley. (7AL0526421)
 Pictures: ANDY LAITHWAITE and PAUL FRANKS

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