

TWSS Story 12.

Programme

Bernard Janet and I had some bright ideas for programme. One project which was always popular was "Montage Pictures" on light sensitive paper. I had purchased the old out of date photography stock of paper and chemicals from the local chemist. The sensitive paper in ten by eight packages was marked at 12/3d for 25 sheets and the bottles of Fixer and Developer at 4/9d or so a 10 floz. bottle. There was also a largish packet of "HYPO" crystals, <Sodium Thiosulphate> Fixer, that smelled familiar odour of photography Dark Rooms.

We distributed 10 by 8 sheets of plain paper to the boys, asking the cubs to montage a picture or design on it from anything they could find, keys were always popular, screws combs, cutlery, odds and ends from the Cub Equipment Box.

Once the cubs were satisfied with their handy work the red safe lights were switched on and the main hall lights extinguished, very spooky, the sensitive paper was given out and the pictures transferred, meanwhile buckets of dilute chemical were prepared two buckets for developer two buckets with a few spots of wetting agent, two buckets fixer and two buckets of water as a wash. We used "Gerry's black buckets he used for flowers, he brought from the market

Once the pictures had been re-assembled the main hall lights were switched on for ten or 12 seconds, and then forming a queue the cubs dipped their paper in and out of the developer until they were satisfied about the density of the master piece in hand, a quick swill in the wash buckets both of them, finally putting the result in the fixing buckets for the rest of the meeting. On the way out of the meeting the master pieces were washed in the school cloakroom, or in the case of Killock, the developer was thrown away and the pictures swilled, one after the other in the four buckets available

Comments from the parents was."Phew!.What's the smell?". " What have you been up to this evening?

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It was well worth the effort just to hear the reaction of Mums and Dads

Second idea we'll teach them "semaphore"

Once we had established that the Sending Station faces the Receiving Station we were making progress. The boys thought it was worthwhile and practiced at school, to be noticed by the teachers. Whereupon I was invited to several schools to demonstrate.

Mapping

Draw a very simple map A5 size on stout card, showing, a road with a junction to a minor road, a bridge, mile post, a post office, a wood with deciduous trees. and a brook under the bridge. Divide the map into sixteen squares. Give each Six a plain sheet of paper with sixteen squares and in relay formation, each cubs runs to the finished map and transfers the convention items to the plain paper in his Sixer corner

You end up with six maps that nothing like the original, but the boys have learned about grid references

Hiking

We walked from Blue Coat School on Spring Hill one time and from Killock another time to the top of Bar Beacon there to be met by the parents."Who mentioned Simon Mason, he needed to be carried".

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Which puts me in mind of a gym session. The blue mats were brand new in use all the time. We were practicing gambolling, Simon sat in his wheel chair watching, when I had an idea that if Simon could hang on to my feet securely and I grasped his feet , with my weight against his, I could gambol and pull him over. It works, he didn't stop laughing the rest of the night "Again ". He shouted

Smoke Rings

If you carefully cut a circular hole bout two cm. Diam in the end of a shoe box, and place a smallish piece of smouldering paper in the box once the smoke starts to emit from the hole tap the lid of the box and smoke rings appear. Easy

A MAJOR PROJECT Puppets

My daughter Sarah had several "Pelham" puppets .Upon closer examination the construction seemed simple enough to make. A round head; 35 mm round mop stick for a body; 37 by 25 square softwood for the pelvis 13 mm for the thighs; 10 mm dowel for shins, forearms ,upper arm, plastic disks for the hands 15 mm dowel planed off to form the soles of the feet A box of crew eyes to put them together 30 times 30 equals 900. Half of them needed to be slightly opened , to articulate the joints plus two for the ears, to make the head wobble

60 No eight inch square section for the cross to hang the puppet

As many different coloured whipping twine spools as Robin Webb had at Stafford Street.

I thought we would make one apiece thirty number

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I set-to on the lathe and turned Mop Stick dowel into oval globes for heads, 30
No

Bodies, Pelvis thighs shins feet upper arms lower arms 60 tiddly winks

Drill pilot holes in the ends of every limb, three holes in the head and three in
the pelvis.

We were ready for the off

Bernard Janet and I struggled for weeks. Some weeks a Venture Scout would
come to assist from Chuckery to help put these puppets together, when it
came time to string the little fellows, only the very brightest cubs managed.
We only ever saw two and a bold attempt actually clothed and decorated with
a face. All that effort. It's plain now in hind sight, the project was too
sophisticated, older Scouts yes, peraps.

Mend a cycle tyre.

First Aid

There is very little else pleases a cub than tying one another up.

Skipping in pairs and with a long rope.