



SEVENOAKS SCOUTING *NEWSLINK NOTICES* *May 2006*

www.sevenoaksscouts.org.uk

The District website has now officially been launched! On this site you will eventually be able to find allsorts of information about Scouting in Sevenoaks. There are pages for groups, sections, parents and news. Training dates and information will also be included. All these pages will be kept up to date by the relevant people, so GSL's will report on their group, ADC's on their sections and so on. To benefit from all of the facilities of the site Scouters will need to contact the Webmaster for a *username* and *password*.

At the moment there are empty pages but keep an eye on this site over the next few weeks it will start to fill up and be a very useful tool for everyone involved in Scouting.

Thanks go to Simon Corrigan for hosting the website through his company Spectulise Ltd and for all the hard work put in over the last few months making sure everyone's needs were catered for.

St. Georges Day

And what a day it was. Yes it was damp (OK wet!) but did it dampen the spirit of the March? Not a bit of it. It would seem that the parade was the largest for many a year and St. Nicholas Church was full to brimming. This was a great turn out and reports coming back tell me that the Chaplin did us proud.

Congratulations to all involved in the planning of this event.

Congratulations also to those winning the coveted trophies of the day. As it would seem that almost everyone reading this would have been there on the day it hardly needs me to tell you who they were. But as there were one or two people like myself who couldn't make it due to family commitments I list them here.

The Sajo Trophy for the Beavers went to 3rd Sevenoaks Broadmead Colony

The Mickey Speary Trophy for Cub Scouts to the 16th Sevenoaks

The Dudley Barrow Trophy for Scouts went to 3rd Sevenoaks Bradbourne Troop

The District Trophy for most improved Group to 15th Sevenoaks

Next year the St. Georges Day Parade will celebrate 100 years of Scouting. Over the next few months you may be asked for ideas on this.

Think
Outside The
Box

The following correspondence was sent to me and I pass it on as you may be interested.
I know nothing about this company and so cannot comment.

Dear Sir/Madam. I am writing to encourage you with the work that you are doing, and to suggest an opportunity for a group get together where the children you work with week by week can discover new skills and be challenged!

The Big Blue Rock is a climbing wall in the Bluewater Shopping Centre, Greenhithe, Kent.

We can organise an evening of fun, where your Beavers, Cubs, Scouts or Explorers can get to know each other and discover new skills, be challenged and stretched according to individual needs. If you fancy trying a new activity, please come and give us a try. We offer a programme of rock climbing, abseiling and team challenges to extend and enthuse your group.

Our prices are a £20 booking fee, which guarantees you a 2 hour time slot at the climbing wall. This is payable in advance. In addition, a further £5 is required per climber on the day to cover insurance, equipment and instructors.

More specifically, we can tailor climbing training programmes to suit a smaller group of Scouts/Cubs who may want to work towards specific badges. The Scout 'Adventure Challenge' specifies climbing as an activity that could be undertaken in order for the badge to be fulfilled. Students can attend for 3 or 4 sessions to discover safety aspects and learn the basics of climbing and fitness. A fitness regime can be offered which may enhance your 'Fitness Challenge'. In addition, we run a Junior Club three times a week, which keen climbers may join in order to work through a range of challenges and opportunities. This may suit those wishing to work specifically towards their 'Climber' badge. We also run trips to the sandstone rock faces around the area of Royal Tunbridge Wells, where climbers can try their skills on real rock and discover the challenges 'real' climbing can offer. Weekend trips can also be arranged if necessary.

Those wishing to work on the above skills can do during pre booked slots, arranged by yourself on a group basis or the Scout and their family on an individual basis. Specialised tuition is £20 an hour. Those wishing to learn skills by joining our 'Junior Club' would be charged a £20 membership fee and then £7.50 per session if they attend one session a week, or £5 a session if they attend twice or more each week. Sessions last 2 hours and are available 9-11 Saturday morning, 20:30 – 12:30 Sunday morning.

Climbers should be wearing trainers, trousers/shorts and a t-shirt (no vest tops).

I am pleased to enclose a group booking form that you may print out and post, or email electronically. Please telephone to discuss your needs, and availability, prior to completing the form should you be interested in bringing a group along to try out something new, exciting and challenging!

Charity events

The climbing wall is available for hire for charity events like charity abseils or sponsored climbs. All equipment and instructors are provided in the cost. Cost £35.00 per hour or £200.00 per day.

Sandstone Climbing £200 a day for 4 climbers.

Yours Faithfully, **Deb Browning.**

The Big Blue Rock Ltd Booking Form

Deborah Borrett, Inglewood West, Sheiling Road, Crowborough TN6 1BJ
07870194695 bigbluerock@hotmail.co.uk

The Newslink Interview

This month Newslink interviews Pat McCann, CSL at 1st Braeside Cubs

Hello Pat, thank you for taking part in the Newslink Interview

What jobs have you had in Scouting and what is your current position?

I have really only had one job – Akela. I was an ACSL for about 5 minutes then got promoted. I am currently also a TA.

What interest do you have outside Scouting

Cooking, running, food, running, eating, running, oh and my lovely family.

What was it that attracted you to Scouting and how long have you been involved? Not sure 'attracted' is the right word. I was keen for my son to join as he wasn't a team sport type so I thought Scouting would suit him. It did. He joined in 1994 when he was 9 but the Akela was struggling so Nicky Craig stepped in and was looking for parents to help. Ha! I'd ticked the box. Ha! That was it, hooked. I and Barry Sharp volunteered to help along with their young helper, Ricky Iles.

Scouting continuously changes its image to keep up with the times and to stay attractive to young people. Do you think it succeeds at this and what do you feel have been the best improvements over the past 10 years?

Yes I do think we manage to keep up with the times and there has been a big improvement in the marketing of scouting activities. The best thing was Peter Duncan becoming Chief Scout.

Is there anything that you feel hasn't worked as well during recent changes? Content of the Power Pack. (Power Pack is the Cub Scout Handbook) The colour and look is good but it's missing most of the information that I think the Cubs & parents want to look up. Not many 8 year olds have their own computers for looking up the criteria for the Martial Arts badge.

Some people feel that children these days are so into computers and electronic games that the traditional scouting games are too old fashioned. Do you agree or do you feel that there is still a need for this sort of thing?

I do not agree at all. Scouting offers so much that isn't available any more for young people. Outdoor freedom, wide games, learning survival skills, being with nature. Not one Cub has ever said to me that they missed anything electric at camp. Although there was the visiting Beaver who assumed he was lining up with his dirty dishes to put them in the dishwasher.

Do you think that children of cub age have more allergies and conditions now than a few years ago or is it that there are just more 'labels'?

I haven't noticed much of a change actually, it goes through phases. There have been some camps where the 'puffers' were lined up in the first aid tent but I currently have none.

As a TA do you feel that the training new leaders receive helps them to cope with discipline and control of a pack or is more aimed at rules, regulations and planning? Well, that depends on what modules you're doing! I think the new training system is excellent and will be even better when everyone understands it better. Rules and regulations need to be learned and I do believe in running sections by the book so everyone knows where they stand. However the very best way of learning how to run a section, to provide discipline and a good programme in a fun and positive way is for Nicky Craig to show you how to do it. i.e. a good and experienced Leader to run with you for a few weeks. (Nicky Craig was a leader and ADC cubs in the past who helped to train Pat)

Your Group has recently gone through an amalgamation of 1st Hicks and 2nd Braeside, is this working well for you and are you enjoying your new HQ?

Well it works for me! Yes we've settled in really well and we love our new HQ. Since 1994 I've gone from the old hut at the top of The Drive (25th The Drive), no grounds, to 2nd Braeside at the URC Church Hall, no grounds, to the 1st Sevenoaks with woods and flat grass area and campfire circle and storage hut and big HQ with lots of wall to put posters on. We are very happy to be part of a bigger Group with 5 sections and a GSL.

Pat, if you were Chief Scout for a day what 'over the top' thing would you do to promote Scouting? (money no object!)

I would buy the Millennium Dome. As you enter it there would be staircases going off in different directions with a big door at the top of each of them. Through each door would be a fully functional 'Scouting experience': campsite with tents and backwoods cooking; open field with a wide game going on; campfire in action; raft building by a lake; canoeing down some rapids; pioneering; get the idea? Through another door would be a circular kitchen with an enormous round table in the middle with work stations and small peninsulas jutting out and opposite each would be an AGA and I could teach lots of people to cook. Of course that's nothing to do with Scouting but it's a lovely fantasy.

Pat McCann at camp. Not a big circular table with work stations and no Aga in site, but you can bet this backwoods cooking was scrummy!



SEVENOAKS DISTRICT DIRECTORY 2006

Update Number 4 – as at 25th April 2006

- 12th GSL Paul Johnson change email to green_ginger@btinternet.com
ACSL Ian Crothall change email to ian.crothall@tiscali.co.uk
- 16th PA Nicola McSheehy change address and 'phone number to:-
Weardale Lodge, Toys Hill, Westerham, TN16 1QG 01732 750853
- PA Joanna Cowan correct email address to:- jocowan@btconnect.com
District Training Advisors
Andrew Taylor change address to
1 Chipstead Park Close, Sevenoaks, TN13 2SJ
- 4th CSL Andrew Taylor change address to
1 Chipstead Park Close, Sevenoaks, TN13 2SJ

The London Marathon

A **BIG** well done to Lynn Rutherford of the 16th for completing the London Marathon. Lynn's charity is Breakthrough Breast Cancer. I am told she ran the distance in a little over 5 hours. - Lynn if you are reading this I am sure we would all like to know of your experience.

Now it's your turn, if you think you are up to the challenge enter the raffle below for a chance to run in next years.

Take part in the 2007 London marathon

If you were inspired by last Sunday's marathon, then this is your chance to take part in next year's race!

Normally, entry to the marathon is fiercer than obtaining tickets to the World Cup, but The Scout Association has been allocated two places for next year's race.

If you think you are up to the challenge, email your name, Scouting role, address, and telephone number to Carmen Attard at carmen.attard@scout.org.uk. Alternatively, write to her at The Scout Association, Gilwell Park, Chingford, London E4 7QW.

The closing date is 30 June 2006 and the draw will take place at the beginning of July.

You may have seen this in Scouting Plus. I am sure that Sevenoaks must have young people worthy of this Award...

If you know a young person who is actively volunteering in their community, why not nominate them for a Spirit of the Community award?

The *Sunday Telegraph* Spirit of the Community Awards honour young people (aged 10-18) for their outstanding achievements in community service. The awards are the first of their kind to be devoted solely to young volunteers in Britain and this is a great opportunity for our young people to be recognised for the voluntary work they do.

For more information and details on how to enter, please visit www.telegraph.co.uk/spiritawards The closing date is 13 May so please get your application in soon!

Please also inform the PR team at The Scout Association by emailing simon.carter@scout.org.uk with a brief outline on the type of work undertaken, what inspired it, the sacrifices involved, and what practical benefit or impact it has had on the local community. We are particularly looking for stories about 10 and 11 year olds volunteering in their local community.

Reach 2006

There is an activity day at Whitstable for special needs children in Kent on 25th June. It is organised by the Scout county special needs team with help from all around Kent. It is not only for uniformed members but would best suit Cub or Scout age. If you have any special needs children in your section that would benefit from this day out please contact me for application forms as soon as possible. Depending on takers we can discuss transport later. I will be there doing First Aid.

This biannual event, formerly called 'Advent' was always at Hope Hill Camp Site at Meopham. It is now hoped to move round the county every two years.

Sean Casey.

Bob a Job and The Good Turn

Going through some old archives recently I came across some Bob-a-Job publicity material. Of course almost everyone in Scouting has heard of Bob-a-Job Week but it would seem you had to be there at the time to know just what a big thing this was. Everyone in Scouting from Cub (there were no Beavers then) to Commissioner were tasked to do jobs and earn at least 2 'bob' which would be used towards the services of Imperial Headquarters. Any money collected over the 2 bob could be used locally. So far all sounds simple? The following paragraph is taken from a the Bob-a-Job leaflet Feb. 1961

The Good Turn

Some concern has been expressed that the introduction of the Bob-a-Job Scheme has led to a lessening of the carrying out of the Good Turn. The Good turn is a fundamental of Scouting

And it is of the greatest importance that Scouters should continue to impress upon their Scouts that during this one week in the year only do they seek to offer their services for payment, and that during the remainder of the year, and indeed during Bob-a-Job Week itself, the spontaneous Good Turn should be carried out without thought of reward.

In some Groups the tradition has been built up of returning later on in the year to those providing jobs during Bob-a-Job Week in order to carry out further jobs, without payment of any kind, as a 'thank you' for the assistance given to Scouting. It is hoped that more and more Groups will adopt this splendid idea.

How times change.

To all those completing the Food Hygiene Examination. This was the first course of its kind run by the Scouting Association in Kent.

Chris McCann	Simon Corrigan	Rose Pyne
Raymond Groom	Jeanette Scwarz	Trevor Johnson
Joyce Bishop	June Johnson	Caroline-Anne Carey
Reed Howey		

Module 14 & 15

Young People Today & Managing Behaviour

- Ø On Saturday June 24th
- Ø At 3rd Riverhead Scout HQ
- Ø Module 14 & 15 from 9.00am – 3pm
- Ø Lunch Break in between

Cooked Lunch available for £2.50– please let me know if you would like a meal and if you have any dietary needs

Module 9

Working with Adults

- Ø On Saturday June 24th
- Ø At 3rd Riverhead Scout HQ
- Ø Module 9 from 2.45pm – 6pm

Please contact Rose to book onto any of these Courses
Take the opportunity while they are being held in District to attend

Module 13

Growing The Movement

- Ø On Sunday 25th June
- Ø At 3rd Riverhead Scout HQ
- Ø Module 13 from 9am – 1pm

Module 19

International

- Ø On Sunday 25th June
- Ø At 3rd Riverhead Scout HQ
- Ø Module 19 from 1.45pm – 4.30pm

Please contact Rose to book onto any of these Courses
Take the opportunity while they are being held in District to attend

Cooked Lunch available for £2.50 – please let me know if you would like a meal and if you have any dietary needs

Rose Pyne
18 Queens Drive
Sevenoaks Kent TN14 5DD

Rosepyne@aol.com

District Diary

Saturday	13 th May	A Visit to the Whitechapel Bell Foundry
Friday	19 th May	Cubs Swimming Badge Testing
Wednesday	7 th June	District AGM
Thursday	8 th June	Trip on the Medway. The Kingswear Castle Paddle Steamer.
Saturday	24 th June	Training Modules 14, 15 and 9
Sunday	25 th June	Training Modules 13 and 19

Please send any photo's of activities for inclusion in Newslink to
csmeares@hotmail.com

'Page Administrators' can also put photos on the website. Please contact the
Webmaster for access codes and follow the tutorials.

webmaster@sevenoaksscouts.org.uk

Deadline for the next Newslink is Monday May 29th

Please send in anything of interest, achievements of your young people, dates you want publicised, ideas and comments.