

January 2017

Sevenoaks Newslink

A Monthly Magazine for Leaders and Supporters of Scouting in Sevenoaks



Happy New Year Interesting Times Ahead

You should have heard by now that Lesley has stood down as our District Commissioner and the search is on for her replacement. Line managers have been passing down the necessary information for us to make recommendations on who we think would fit the job. If this hasn't reached you yet and you have an opinion, please ask. Your thoughts will be listened to irrespective of position or length of service.

Four years ago, when the District was without a Commissioner, Lesley stepped up to the plate and took on the role. In that time she has introduced the annual All Leaders Meeting and overseen our second Mag7 camp. She has also performed the role of Group Scout Leader at the 15th and kept in touch with real scouting by running the Beaver colony there as well.

During her time, it is fair to say that a good many problems have landed at her Scouting door and I'm sure it hasn't always been an easy ride.

As leaders in the District we only see a small part of what the District Commissioner must deal with, the job isn't just about giving out certificates and smiling at young people. The District Commissioner must be involved in all aspects of scouting over all sections. They are involved in policy making, financial decisions and staffing. They need to lead, encourage, inspire and have a vision.

Finding the right people to fill jobs around the district must be one of the hardest of the jobs especially when there are more jobs than people.

The long-standing joke about scouting being for 2 hours a week is kind of reversed in the case of a District Commissioner and the joke probably should be around the District Commissioner getting two hours a week off.

Enough to say then is the District Commissioner role is a tough job and I for one am impressed that Lesley held the job down for four years. I don't know her reasons for standing down but am pretty sure she didn't do it lightly and we all wish her well in her continuing role as Group Scout Leader at the 15th Sevenoaks (Otford) Group.



Lesley oversees St Georges Day Service

Cubs 100 Years

If you have just returned from a trip to Mars, you may not know that the Cub section has been celebrating their 100 years birthday.

On the other hand I don't expect that this applies to many Sevenoaks Scouters so you will generally all be aware of this.

So, after a long year of events the celebrations came to an end on 16th December, the date that Cub scouting came into existence in 1916. To mark this memorable occasion Cubs from all around the country gathered in different places to renew their Promise at 7.16pm (19.16) clever uh.

The Sevenoaks District event was held at Sevenoaks School where our outgoing District Commissioner and Andrew Eyre Mayor of Sevenoaks took the opportunity to present some Silver Chief Scout Awards to the cubs present.

Ian Crothall of 12th Sevenoaks (Edenbridge) was presented with a well-deserved Medal of Merit.

Richard Everest Assistant District Commissioner (Cubs) was presented with the Medal of Meritorious Conduct. This is a medal awarded for meritorious conduct of *a very high standard*. See the pictures for the look of well-deserved pride on Richards face.

A busy time of year for this type of event and numbers were a bit down on what they could have been but I am reliably informed that all went well and a night that cubs will be able to relate to their grandchildren for the 150th event.



Cubs 100 Years (part two)

A report from Jonathan Booth 15th Sevenoaks (Otford)



The Rev Worsam addressing the Cubs whilst standing in a cow pat



The view of the fireworks from Otford Mound



Graham Still having a technical moment



All the Cubs, most of the rest

The 15th Sevenoaks leaders had planned how they wanted to mark the Promise party almost a year in advance which is why the two Otford Packs (Seeonee & Waingunga) weren't able to attend the District event at Sevenoaks School on the 16th December.

Having gathered at the hut at 18:15 on the Friday evening, 23 Cubs, 4 parents, 3 leaders (including a welcome visit from Graham Still), and 1 vicar set off via the North Downs way to the top of Otford Mound. 40 minutes later, after much excited torch flashing and mud surfing by the Cubs, we were looking over the village of Otford and its surrounds. Once all the Cubs had found a cow pat to stand in, The Rev Worssam of St Bart's said a few kind words before he too stood in a cow pat. The Cubs then got themselves in some sort of order and renewed their promise at 19:16 hours on the dot. Then, following a pre-arranged signal, the parents manning mission control back in the village set off 10 large rockets (we couldn't afford 100). We were sure that The Cubs at Sevenoaks School must have heard them as their report echoed round the valley.

We then had a supper of hot dogs and ketchup whilst taking time to find the landmarks in the village or our own homes. Akela found his house and managed to spot that someone had left the bathroom light on again!

Having made sure that the Cubs had found all the available cow pats to stand in or walk through, the happy band retraced their steps back to the hut returning at 20:30

Although we were a little disappointed not to attend the District event, our smaller affair was judged a great success by the adult volunteers and as something the Cubs would remember forever. As one of the Cubs said 'it was quite good'. High praise indeed! We all hope the District event received similar reviews