

March 2017

Sevenoaks Newslink

A Monthly Magazine for Leaders and Supporters of Scouting in Sevenoaks



The Search Goes On

The search for the next District Commissioner for Sevenoaks is in full swing with interviews taking part sometime in early March. It would appear that several names have been thrown into the hat from scouters around the District so I suppose it just means that someone has to say yes and hopefully we will have that person in place by St Georges Day.

Scouts Plender Hike

The scout section Plender Hike is based at **Weald Scouts HQ on the 25th March**. This is an overnight event and scouts will be setting up camp, hiking until the witching hour and then going back to the HQ to sleep until breakfast time. The teams will get points for tent pitching, navigation and how they perform at the challenge bases they encounter along the way.

If your troop hasn't entered yet it is not too late. You can enter accompanied or unaccompanied teams. The more, the merrier.

If you are a leader in any section and feel you would like to help with this event get in touch with Peter Frankl who I am in no doubt will welcome you with open arms.

Cub Scouts Cross Country Races

On the 18th March at Kemsing HQ the Cub Scouts are having their Cross-Country Races.

There are four races in the event, two are a kilometre the other two a mile. The last race being the all-comers race in which many parents and leaders are encouraged to take part.

It is a few years since this event was last run (sorry about the pun) and the organisers are not sure of the whereabouts of the carved wooden trophy that is traditionally given out to the winning pack so if you know where it is please contact csmeares@hotmail.com

Although it is often rested after a couple of years this event goes way back and was certainly a great favourite back in the '80s when, as I was reminded by Mandy Barrow, it was held in Knole Park.

Indeed, I remember taking part in the all-comers race when I was a young(ish) Assistant Cub Scout Leader. Totally exhausted after the event I had to climb the steep path out of the Park to Buckhurst car park. Some memories never leave you.

St Georges Day Parade and Service

If you don't already know the St Georges Day Parade and Service will be on the 23rd April.

Instructions for this will be circulated in good time, I am guessing though that there will not be much change than the last 5, 10, 15 years.

But You Never Know keep an eye out for information.

Scouts from the 7th go for a swim to support Guide Dogs for the Blind

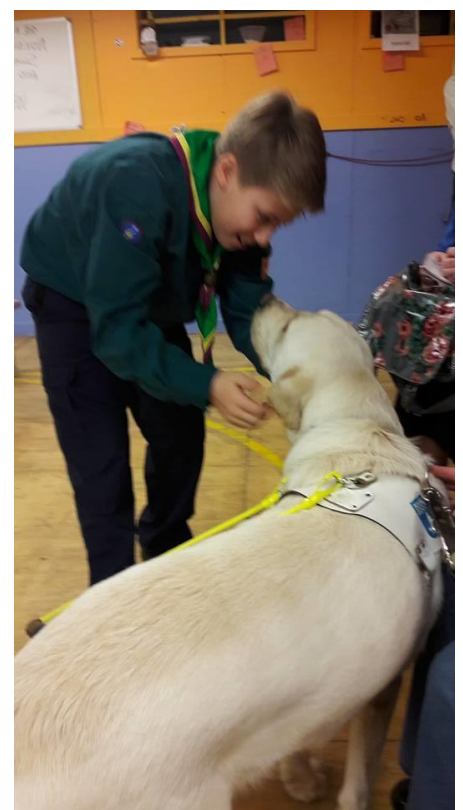
The Halstead troop were recently visited by guide dog Cooper and his handler to speak about how blind people rely on guide dogs. During the talk, it was revealed that the cost of a dog over its lifetime is around £50,000.

Lucky then that the troop had organised a sponsored swim the week before to raise money for this particular charity and raised over £500.

Firstly, sponsor forms were given to the scouts on which they set their own targets, it was explained to them that this was not a competition and they could put down any amount of lengths they wished.

The troop then hired a lane at Sevenoaks Leisure Centre on their troop night for an hour which cost £15.

On the night, they swam a length got out and walked back and started again. They were allowed 45 minutes to swim as many lengths as they could. Everyone achieved and some surpassed their targets. The Leisure Centre then let the scouts have some fun time in the smaller fun pool for a splash about. This was a good evening for the troop and they managed to raise a good amount for their chosen charity.



Sevenoaks Leisure Centre

As mentioned the Centre charged £15 for a single lane for one hour which makes this very affordable for a colony, pack, troop or unit to hire for a badge swimming session. If this interests, you instead of looking at their literature I suggest you go and actually speak to someone at the pool and explain your needs. The Halstead Troop found them very accommodating indeed.

Kent Activities for 2017

see Kent Scouts web site for further info



Come on down to Lower Grange Farm with your Colony or Pack and join in the Adventure Days organised by the Lower Grange Farm team on Saturday 20th May and Sunday 21st May 2017.

Beavers and Cubs will get the chance to have a go at climbing (either in the barn or mobile tower subject to availability), zorbing, disc golf, pedal cars, cave bus, archery and orienteering - as well as some other activities during the session. All are weather and availability dependent.

You must book in advance and places are strictly limited so choose your time and date and book quickly to avoid disappointment.

Things for cubs to do in the Kent 2017

29th & 30th April 2017 : Quiz and Fizz for Cubs on the Saturday, with camping for Leaders and a Leader Conference on the Sunday - both at LGF

13th May 2017 : Big Day Out at Leeds Castle

30th Sept & 1st October 2017 : STEPS!

21st October 2017 : "Disaster" Competition day at Shepherdswell, Faversham

18th Nov 2017: Campfire Extravaganza at Lower Grange Farm



SURVIVAL SKILLS TRAINING 2017

Survival Skills takes place on the 19th - 21st May 2017 at Ross Wood Campsite

Kent Scouts annual Survival Skills Weekend is really popular and is always fully booked! This is the one event you definitely don't want to miss out on!

The cost for this event will be £36.00 for the weekend, including all your meals. You will then be able to attend the Survival Skills Assessment Weekend to earn your badge.

KSAR DAY 8th April

Kent scouts will be joining up with Kent Search and Rescue to host a day of fun activities and learning.

The event will be at Adamswell Scout Campsite, Broom Lane, Langton Green, Kent, TN3 9JL.

IT'S A KNOCKOUT 16TH SEPTEMBER

It's a Knockout non-stop gameshow fun - run as it should be... games, fun, excitement



Young leaders training weekend 4th 5th March

Build your own bridge event 7th 9th April

Team Bravo 1 from Sevenoaks - The sole survivors

Good work from the team from Sevenoaks who took on this 40 mile challenge – and were the only team to finish.

This short report and picture from the Kent Scouts Facebook page.

Congratulations to all teams who took part in [Winter Survival](#) over the weekend. Despite the snowy weather and limited sleep, teams pushed through on their 40-mile journey across the Kent countryside.

One team, Team Bravo 1 managed to complete the entire course arriving back at 1.24am Sunday morning. As past participants know, just taking part in survival is a huge challenge and a massive achievement, whatever the distance. Winter Survival looks forward to welcoming teams back next year to beat their time/distance!



Additional report from Jo Brookbank

Sevenoaks District Scouts are very proud of the two teams of Explorer Scouts that took part in the Kent Scouts Winter Survival challenge last weekend. It is rare for a team to finish but Team Bravo, young leaders from the 4th & 3rd, were the only team to complete the challenge which involved hiking 40 miles within 30 hours.

Winter Survival is designed to provide a test of physical and mental abilities, starting at an unknown location, shared only on the Friday at 7pm, finishing in the early hours of Sunday morning. They carried the minimum of equipment, completed various challenges and visited 25 check points along the way, collecting the next set of grid references at each one. All this through severe weather conditions that included snow and only stopping for a few hours "sleep", if it can be called that, in just an orange plastic survival bag!

Keep a look out at the **Kent Scouts** various pages on their website for all the things that **Kent Scouts** offer.

**Did you know that you can camp at Lower Grange Farm
and take advantage of all the facilities they have there?**

Message from Hugh

I recently met with the other DCs in Kent.

There were several things that I need to bring to your attention but for now can I encourage all

leaders to subscribe to

i.Scout in Kent

which has replaced CCC via this

link

<http://kentscouts.us3.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=d469cb29a9cb3ebcdedb872fe&id=9d5cd416c5>

or google

Kent Scouts > i scout in Kent

Vacancies

Scout Shop

Sevenoaks Scout Shop are still looking for people to cover a few Saturday mornings here and there throughout the year

Not every Saturday, just now and again.



It may not be for



but it could be for someone that know.
What about your mother -in-law!

GO ON -DROP THEM IN IT -THEY'LL LOVE YOU FOREVER!

The District Executive Committee

The Committee are still seeking a Treasurer to look after all our money.

Any retired people out there that have had experience of this sort of thing or anyone with a few hours to spare here and there would be made most welcome.

Professional Gamblers need not apply.

Vacancies for a Assistant Cub Scout Leaders at the 7th Sevenoaks Halstead Pack

A thriving Pack that could thrive even more with your Help
Want to apply? Contact rosemeears1@gmail.com

Grow Your Group

Jo Brookbank and Jeanette Schwarz attended a Regional Development Workshop recently around Growing Your Group. This was aimed at recruiting adults rather than young people and various ideas were discussed.

One idea was a Vacancy Board and vacancy cards for Scout headquarters and other places that interested adults may frequent. The cards would have the job vacancy a brief description and a means of contact.

Jo, who is the Group Scout Leader at the 4th Sevenoaks Group gave a short talk about the workshop to the District Team and promised to do a more substantial presentation to anyone in the District that would be interested. This could be uniformed or non-uniform personnel.

The presentation/workshop will be on

Sunday 12th March from 1- 4pm at 4th Scout Hut, Mill Lane, TN14 5BU

There is a cost for the Vacancy Board and kit and the Sevenoaks District have agreed to help with this. All this and more will be explained on the 12th March
Jo would like at least one member from each Group to attend but feel free to go along as a gang if you like, all she asks is that you contact her and let her know how many may be attending.

"Jo Brookbank" 4thsevenoaksagsl@gmail.com

Vacancy board & cards kit

The idea of this kit is that you order an A2 poster with a set of cards for eight different vacancies which you can display six at a time on the poster within plastic wallets. This allows the user to take one of the cards for reference to contact you. You get eight copies of each card.

Vacancy poster

This is an A2 size poster printed on 3mm foam core board in colour with six clear plastic wallets stuck on allowing the A6 cards to be inserted into, allowing the potential volunteer to keep the details so they can contact you to fill the vacancy.

Vacancy cards

These are A6 size cards printed on 200gsm card in colour. There are eight different vacancy positions, with different vacancy descriptions pre-populated which you can personalise and modify on each of the eight cards. The example positions are Cleaner, Buyer, Record keeper, 2 x Helpers, Cook, Fundraiser and Administrator.

Create your own

To create your own Vacancy board and cards log into the Members' Area of www.scouts.org.uk Select: My Tools > Print Centre > Materials > Vacancy Boards and follow the on screen instructions.

Start recruiting

Display the board in your meeting place, in a prominent location where parents and visitors will see it. Keep the board up and update/restock the vacancy cards as required.

IT'S EASY TO VOLUNTEER...

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Interested?
Ask one of the team for more details or contact us:
01445 500188 info@scouts.org.uk www.scouts.org.uk

scouts
for all ages and abilities

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Busy Times for Beavers and Cubs at 4th Sevenoaks St Johns

Cubs Night Hike

On what seemed the coldest weekend of this year, experiencing snow on the wa, 4th cubs took a hike to Otford on the footpath that runs from our HQ, past the quarry and through to Oxenhill Shaw woods passing over the M26 motorway and the Railwa. We had fun at the recreation Ground looking at the scale version of the solar system before we walked onto Otford Scout HQ for fish or sausage and chips, collected by parents. Despite the full moon, the skies were heavy with snow so it really was quite dark for the return hike to sleepover in our hut. *Jo Brookbank*



Beavers 'Swallows and Amazons' Spring Camp

Over 30 4th Beavers had lots of fun at their 'Swallows and Amazon' Spring Sleepover experiencing archery, grass sledging, crossbows, raft and bow making, a treasure hunt, firelighting, and they even watched "the" movie before bedtime. *Jo Brookbank*



*As we leave this world we may wonder if we have made an impression or will be remembered.
Here is a story of a SCOUT that will certainly be remembered by many of the young people he influenced.*

A Sad Farewell to a Fellow Scout, Bert Trattell

From a Scout to Active Support

Wow! 81 years in scouting how many of us can match that?

Bert joined the Scout movement in 1936 as a very young Scout in the 13th Lewisham South Group. He remained with this Group as a Scout until he was evacuated to the West County during the war. However, as it was war time, and he had reached the age of 18, Bert was conscripted into the Army in 1944.

As a young man, he took part in the fighting across Belgium and Germany, eventually serving in the Army of Occupation in Berlin. Even here he remained connected to his love of Scouting. He met several likeminded ex-Scouts also serving in the Army and together they formed an Army Rover Scout Group. They even managed to entertain other troops and officials, by putting on a Gang Show complete with songs and sketches. One of the Group managed to cobble together enough bits and pieces to make a primitive recording apparatus and a Bakelite recording of one show. Amazingly a copy of which still exists.

Returning from active service, Bert re-joined his local Scout Troup, now the 12th Lewisham South, as a Scout Leader. It was a reformed Group from others where leaders had been lost in the war and re-organisation was needed.

The 12th, for Bert, was obviously a great place to be as it was here that he met Audrey. She had joined the Group as a Cub Instructor whilst he was away having been lent from the Girl Guides to help the Group out. The 12th seemed to have had a marriage broker undercurrent as Audrey was assisting the Cub Leader, Sylvia Ruberry who became Bert's sister-in-law by marrying his brother Len.

Eventually Bert and Audrey married 1953, and later moved into Kemsing in 1958 although he stayed on as the Senior Scout Leader with the 12th travelling up to Lewisham. In 1962 it became evident that the Kemsing Scouts, the 6th Sevenoaks, needed a new Scout Leader and so Bert joined. Audrey, at the time was already helping the 6th as a Cub Leader.

As Scout Leader, he had so many scouts at the Sixth, including our own 3 sons (who often tell us how much they benefitted from their time with him) that they and many of their friends stayed on as Venture Scouts under Eric Jones. Bert did so well with so many scouts they all have happy memories of his work here.

In 1975 he became the Group Scout Leader and stayed with the group until 1991 when he had to retire, as we all did in those days at the age of 65. During his time, as GSL a new scout hut was built. Much of the cabinet work that he built and installed still exists. Under his leadership, the group successfully carried on and expanded in numbers.

For all his good work, he was awarded the Silver Acorn in 1989. After hearing of the award Bert said, *"It's not really for me, but for all the other Scouters in the Group, as, without them, I would be GSL of nothing"*.

But he still did not stop and, with Fred Burrige, became a founder member of the Sevenoaks Scout Fellowship where he continued helping where ever and whenever he was needed. He was a regular member of a team of us who helped maintain and fit out the District HQ in Seal - much of the restoration woodwork of the building is still there as a result of his talents.

It is difficult to determine how many Young People must have benefited from his work in Scouts. Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and all the variations of Senior Scouts to Explorers. Detailed records are almost impossible to trace, but an approximate estimate is that well over 1000 young people will have learnt Scouting principals and practice from him.

Sadly, this help came to an end when he had his first stroke 4 years ago, but he continued being able to join us at many of our meetings with the Sevenoaks District Active Support.

The last Active Support meeting he enjoyed was at County Headquarters, Lower Grange Farm, just before Christmas when he really enjoyed his mulled red wine and mince pies!

Bert was a quiet man who just got on with the job in hand.

He did His Best, and his Duty to God and the Queen, and in improving the lives of so many young people.

Thank you, Bert.

Kevin and Pat Crawley



Bert's Funeral Service was on 6th March at Kemsing Church before he was taken to the crematorium. It was very fitting that as Bert left Kemsing for the last time the laughter of young children enjoying themselves could be heard from the school playground nearby. Kemsing children unwittingly saying their last farewell.

SEVENOAKS DISTRICT SCOUT SHOP OPENING DATES

**18TH MARCH
22ND APRIL
6TH MAY
20TH MAY
10TH JUNE
24TH JUNE**

MORE HELPERS MAY RESULT IN MORE OPENING DATES

Sevenoaks District Cubs Cross Country Races

March 18th

Kemsing Headquarters and Recreational Ground

4 Races including Leaders

'You know you want to do it'

Registration from 1 pm

From Days Gone By

I spotted a photograph that Caroline O'Mahony put on Facebook of her dad, a young Sevenoaks scout, as part of the Kent Contingent to the Hungarian Jamboree in 1933.

With KIJ quickly approaching this caught my interest so I thought I would do a bit of research.

Using Google and the British Newspaper Archives I came across the edition of The Courier August 18th 1933 of which the picture was in and The Courier for August 11th 1933 with a report from Rover Scout Tom Bell who was part of the contingent.

Caroline and Stephanie Everest (her sister) think that their dad is bottom row fifth from the left with large ears in the picture (next page)

The report that Tom provided makes for interesting reading but is too long to reproduce in its entirety in this newsletter, however I would like to take a couple of excerpts to give some insight as to how things were 'back in the day'. *Chris Mears*

THE GREAT SCOUT JAMBOREE.

ENTHUSIASTIC GREETINGS ON THE WAY TO HUNGARY.

ROUSING RECEPTION FOR KENT MEMBERS.

50,000 PEOPLE CLAMOUR FOR REPETITION OF THEIR PAGEANTRY.

Boy Scouts and Girl Guides in all parts of Kent—and probably in Sussex—will find our article on the International Jamboree at Godollo, of immense interest. It is written by a Special Correspondent—Tom Bell, a Sevenoaks Rover—who emphasises the great welcome which was given to the British contingent, and

I wonder if Rover Scout Tom Bell went on to open a chain of Fish and Chip shops or was that someone else?

WHAT BECAME OF THE HITLER FLAGS.

At Frankfurt we stopped for lunch, and here again a tremendous crowd and several hands were on the platform to meet us. During the rest of the day we passed through the forests of Southern Germany, and at midnight we left Passau for the Austro-German frontier. The German authorities at Passau presented each of us with a Nationalist flag and a Nazi flag with the intention of propagating the Hitler movement in Austria. These flags were collected and all carefully destroyed, lest they might be the

cause of embarrassment to the Austrian authorities and to our Hungarian friends.

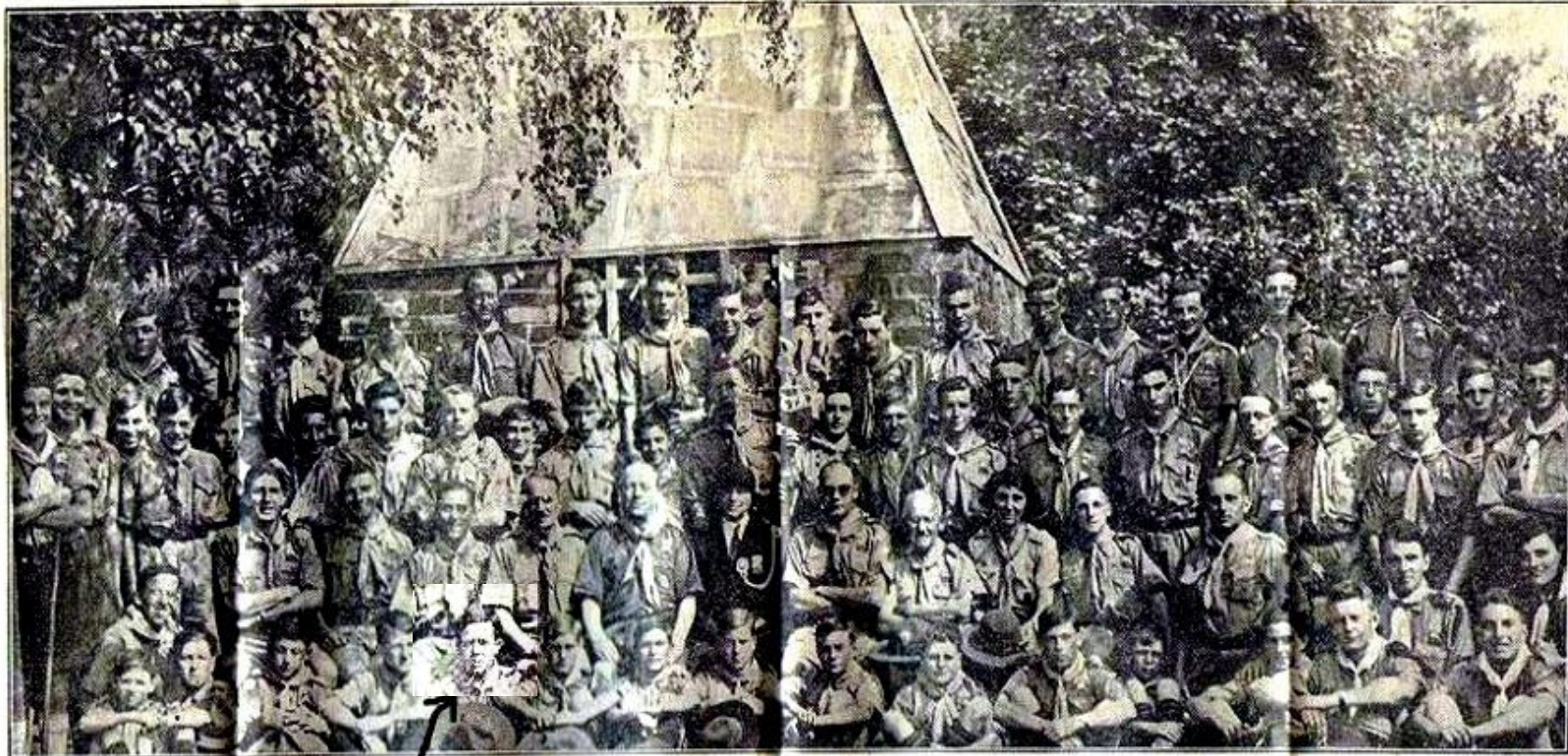
We slept through Vienna, and at 5.30 in the morning we arrived at Hegyshalom, the first town on the Hungarian frontier. It seemed that the whole population was on the platform, and how glad these people were to see us! In 1929 the Scouts of Kent entertained a party of eight hundred Hungarian Scouts, the guests of Lord Rothermere, for two weeks following the World Jamboree at Birkenhead. The Hungarian Boy Scouts' Association has not yet forgotten our hospitality. The whole of the British contingent has been invited to stay in Hungary for an additional week after the Scouts of the other participating countries have returned to their homes. A full programme of sight-seeing and pleasure-hunting activities has been arranged for our entertainment during this week.

By noon our train had crossed the great plain of Hungary. We followed the course of the mighty but dirty Danube into the mountainous region in which Budapest is situated. The train takes us right to our camping ground in the Royal Summer Park at Godollo. In an hour the Scouts of Kent were thoroughly encamped upon the soil of Hungary.

"YOU ARE THE FUTURE—BE FRIENDS."

The Jamboree was officially opened by His Serene Highness, the Regent of Hungary on Wednesday, August 2. In his speech at this ceremony Lord Baden-Powell said: "I want to see the men of all countries at peace with one another. You are the future men of your countries, therefore be friends." Seventy-five thousand people witnessed the march past of the nations in the great arena. Twenty abreast, for three hours the Scouts of the world paid homage to their

KENT SCOUTS AT THE JAMBOREE IN HUNGARY



Sixty Scouts who are representing Kent at the International Jamboree at Godollo, Hungary. In the centre is Mrs. Copley Hewitt, County Commissioner for Girl Guides; on her right is Mr. Hewitt, Scout Commissioner, and on her left is Stanley White, of Tunbridge Wells, who is Camp Chief. In the rear is a model Oast-House, the emblem of the Kent Troop.

4th World Scout Jamboree – 1933

Gödöllő, Hungary, 1933. 25,792 Scouts in camp. The Jamboree daily paper was printed in Hungarian, English, French and German, with contributions in other languages. The unofficial language was "Jamboreese", which consisted mostly of signs emphasized by a happy smile. Each foreign contingent was provided with a "cousin", a local Scout who could help them with the Hungarian language. Air Scouts participated for the first time. First issue of commemorative Scout stamps. The Jamboree badge: the white stag of Hungary. "You may look on that white stag as the pure spirit of Scouting, springing forward and upward, ever leading you onward and upward, to leap over difficulties, to face new adventures."(B-P)



**Presented by
SEVENOAKS DISTRICT ACTIVE SUPPORT**



**An evening of
Hilarity Music Humour and Fun
Come on down to the 'Old Bull 'n' Bush'
For LAUGHTER and a GOOD OLD FASHIONED SING SONG
Dig out your
Big Frocks
Fancy Hats
and Waistcoats
*and Ladies you can dress up too!***

March 9th 7.30pm -9.30pm Halstead Scout Emporium
Admission: Stalls 3/9d Circle 2/6d Non-alcoholic drinks available,
Bring your own booze and friends are Welcome