

4th Sevenoaks (St. Johns) open 2nd Cub Pack!

Everyone at the 4th is very excited to be able to announce the opening of a 2nd Cub pack at Mill Lane.

Our Cub numbers have been growing and growing over the past few years and after lots of analysis of our future numbers over the next 5 years it was clear the 4th would struggle with the number of Beavers we had to move through to Cubs - yes lots of number/name crunching took place!

Following a well-planned recruitment drive - aka arm twisting - the 4th were given permission to go ahead with the 2nd pack.

Word of mouth soon spread and as well as the group of Beavers moving up this term plus those already on our waiting list that had grown too old to join Beavers, we have been overwhelmed by applications for the additional places we have been able to create for young people in our local area. With an eye to our future Beavers moving up we have already had to limit those we could give a place to.

The new pack is meeting on Friday's, just before our Scouts session and will be known by the name "Greatness". Our existing Wednesday night pack has taken on the name "Wilderness".

Our second Akela is Steve Kelley, previously our ABSL who is being supported and guided by our existing Cub team of Richard, Stephanie and Peter as well as myself. We are also welcoming new assistant leaders to our Cub team - Freddie Willson, Laura Ayres and Karen Moore as well as two new members to the Beaver team, Katrien Buckens and Martha Rutherford, to fill Steve's previous role. Although Steve has agreed to also continue to support Beaver team over the next term too!

On Friday 20th March we held the first of two "getting to know each other and what Cubs is all about" sessions under the watchful eyes of our DC, DDC, ADC Cubs plus our TA - no pressure! With the help of some of our scouts (acting as pretend sixers) as well as our two newest Young leaders, Clara and Natasha Kelley, Akela and team had the young people (all but 2 new to Cubs and most new to Scouting) responding to the call of Pack, Pack, Pack and assembling themselves into their sixes in no time at all. Great fun was had by all and they returned the following Friday for more fun and of course "training"!

Our first official meeting was on Friday 24th April and now the hunt starts for some potential Beaver leaders to support a second colony.

13 of the new Greatness pack attended the St G Parade and carried the new Cub Colours which were presented for the first time.

Jo Brookbank, AGSL 4th Sevenoaks (St.John's)



Inside, then out to explore
The Great Wide World.

The Lambarde Troop v North Downs Way

During the Easter Break The Lambarde Troop from the 3rd Sevenoaks went on a 3 day hike from the Village Green at Boughton Lees to Barham Church mainly on the North Downs Way plus a bit on the White Cliffs of Dover. The hikers were 17 Scouts and 3 Young Leaders with 3 adults but let's not forget the support and organization team.

It was year 3 of the series of hikes Hugh Mercer has organised along the North Downs Way for the Lambarde Scout Troup. Here the Leadership Team take up the story.

Day One was hiking from the village green at Boughton Lees to the Scout Hut at Lyminge via Wye and along the North Downs Way until Cobb's Hill (10.15 am to 5.15 pm). We had lunch in 3 fields.

At the Scout Hut at Lyminge Neil's skills were used to unblock drains before bangers and mash were enjoyed by all (thanks Ian) as was the DVD that followed. Light outs just after 10 pm for a 6 am start.

Day Two was from the Scout Hut at Lyminge to the Scout Hut at St. Margaret's at Cliffe (7.25 am to 5.50 pm). Leaving Lyminge at 7.25 am we re-joined the North Downs Way at just past Shearins Bungalow and remained on it until Dover. During this stretch we stopped at Northcliffe to enjoy the view of the Channel Tunnel Terminal, bypassed Caesar's Camp, and stopped to show our respect at the Battle of Britain Memorial on East Cliff before hiking the length of the cliffs until Dover (jokes about leaders being on edge). Had lunch at Tunnel Abbot's Cliff on old MOD land so there was a convenient barbed wire fence between us and the cliff. There are a couple of steep stretches of cliff tops before Dover. On our approach into Dover the chap at 34 Kings Ropewalk kindly topped up water bottles before we went up Western Heights where we left the North Downs Way to make our way down into the centre of Dover.



From the centre of Dover it was a steep uphill slog to Dover Castle.

We arrived at Dover Castle at 2.40 pm which was a whole 5 minutes early as we had a check-in time booked for 2.45 pm. We had just under an hour resting in the Castle grounds with ice cream (that's where we blew the budget) in which time 8 Scouts still had the energy to get to the top of the Castle tower. After a pit stop for juice in the Castle car park (the support for the hike by Ian was brilliant) we left Dover Castle at 3.45 pm. The payback for the Dover Castle rest was some well-disciplined road walking up Upper Street to the White Cliffs. We then walked the White Cliffs along the Saxon Shore Way until the lighthouse at St. Margaret's at Cliffe (have I done the joke about leaders being on edge?). We arrived at the Scout Hut at St. Margaret's at Cliffe at 5.50 pm which was very tight as our supper was booked for 6.15 pm at the White Cliffs Hotel which was another 5 minutes from the Hut. Anyway we made it for supper!

The Scout Hut at St. Margaret's at Cliffe was carpeted so no sleeping on wooden floors, but if you think that's luxury Ingrid slummed it in the two bedroom apartment at the White Cliffs Hotel! Another DVD was enjoyed. Once again lights out just after 10pm for a 6am start.

Day Three was from the Scout Hut at St. Margaret's at Cliffe to Barham Church (8.15 am to 4.25 pm). It was very foggy when we left the Scout Hut (you could hear the fog horns in the distance) and after we left St. Margaret's at Cliffe the compass came out to make sure we were heading somewhere in the right direction. We timed our crossing of the A258 perfectly with Hugh who was driving along coming to help Ian and stopped his car for us to cross the main road. We had just passed a rather smelly farm in Guston when we stopped for a break. We re-joined the North Downs Way at Pineham, stopped for a break just after Ashley before slogging it to Shererdsweil or Sibertswold (even the OS can't make its mind up what's it called) via Coldred Church. The North Downs way goes left past Coldred Church; we went right, and then tried the churchyard and had to backtrack thus adding less than 50 meters to the hike. Hikers had to be cajoled to leave the North Downs Way to have lunch at the East Kent Railway but it was a good call by Ian. Once again he juiced us up during a 45 minute break. We re-joined the North Downs Way at the North of Shererdsweil or Sibertswold and headed towards Womenswold. At Womenswold the hikers were greeted by Hugh who guided us via a rerouted footpath to a bridge over the A2 (we were never going to cross it on foot but we had a few parents worried) and finally arrived at the end at Barham Church at 4.25 pm. Our ETA was 3pm but considering the distances covered arriving at 4.25 pm was an achievement.



As was explained to stragglers along the way, the muscles will relax & the blisters will heal but the satisfaction will remain. A few scouts have made the full walk over three years from Otford round to Canterbury plus the Dover loop. Quite an exploit!

We are not really sure of distances as it's not flat and our map reading skills are not great.

We think Day 1 was 11 ½ miles give or take some level of tolerance.

We guess Day 2 was 18 miles but that has some very hilly bits and the cliff paths are not straight (have you heard the one about leaders being on edge?).

We think Day 3 was around 13½ miles sort of, ish, possibly.

Anyway whatever the exact distance it is quite an achievement for the Scouts and Young Leaders. The young leaders and some of the older Scouts carried all their kit for the entire hike.

[All were a credit to Scouting.](#)





Newslink – Camp Recipe Of the Week



Roasted or Toasted Hedgehog (Kind of)



For your toasted hedgehog meal you will need:

Potatoes – mashed
Baked Beans or Spaghetti in tomato sauce (Heinz? Other beans are available) or for good effect some of both.
4 sausages (cooked)
Cherry tomatoes.
Small carrot

If oven is not available try to use hot cooked ingredients throughout.

Method.

- Peel and boil potatoes and mash.
- Form your mash into a hedgehog shape on a baking tray and hollow out the centre keeping the spare mash to one side.
- Pour in your beans/ spaghetti (hot) and cover with mash to reform hedgehog shape.
- Spike up the mash with a fork
- Put your cooked sausages into four corners of the hedgehog with just a small pieces protruding to represent its feet.
- Cut your cherry tomato in two and use half for eyes
- Push in the small carrot for the nose.
- For best results pop into a hot oven until the spikes brown or if an oven is not available toast the spikes using a blowtorch.

Probably feeds two.

Offer Of A Lift

Scouts County Survival Weekend May 15th-17th Do your scouts need a lift?

The 4th have several Scouts attending the County Survival weekend that was advertised as being at Hamlet Wood, Maidstone but is actually at Ross Wood, Canterbury! It made sense to transport our Scouts in the 4th's minibus for a donation towards fuel. There will be a few spare seats so please ask your scouts to get in touch via the 4th's email address if they would like a space - first come first served of course.
Email:-4thsevenoaks@gmail.com



Does your colony, pack, troop or unit use Occasional Helpers?

You no doubt give your OH's a Yellow Card but do you back it up with a brief talk on Safeguarding?

Occasional helpers, especially those helping at camps, need this information and it is as relevant to them as it is a full leader. Just a thought.

Also if your Occasional Helper is not going to be on a Nights Away do they really need a Disclosure and Barring Service check? Things may have changed since last you looked at this procedure.

It is wrong to ask for a Disclosure and Barring Service check unless it is for a planned 'Regulated Activity'.

In September 2012, the Government scaled back what was considered 'Regulated Activity' to focus on work which involves close and unsupervised contact with vulnerable groups including children.

Activities are now considered 'Regulated Activity' if they involve:

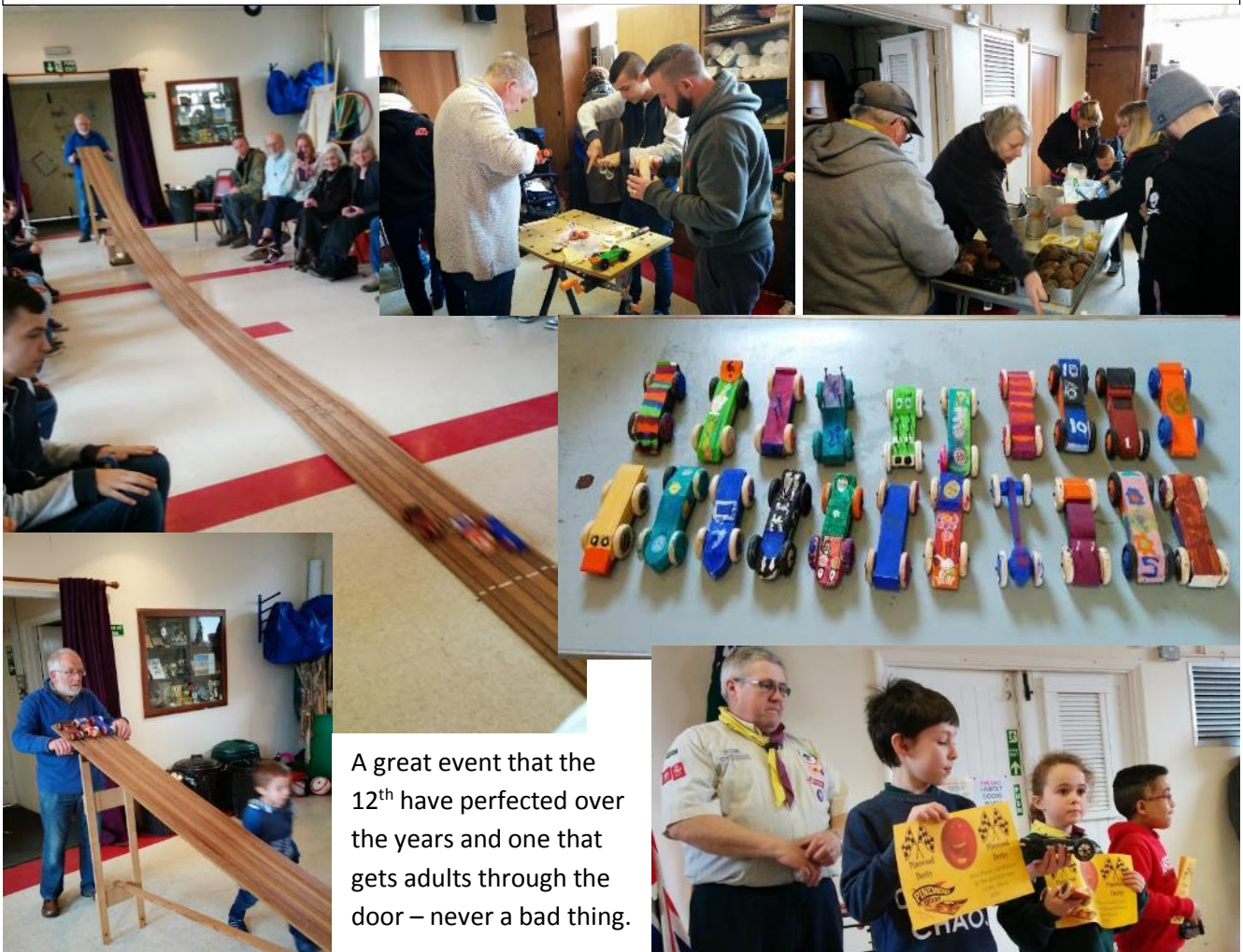
- Work carried out at a site regularly in the presence of vulnerable groups (once a week or more / on four days or more in a single month / overnight). *Children are classed as 'vulnerable group'.*

This is covered in the Police Act 1997 and is what all organisations including the Scout Association have to adhere to.

Occasional Helpers helping every now and again with no planned overnight stay will not normally need a Disclosure and Barring Service check. You should not ask for it 'just in case'

If in any doubt do your own research and be happy with your decision.

Edenbridge Scout Group and the Pinewood Car Rally Challenge



Explorer Unit Get High

*Flying High, Flying High
We're up in the clouds today
We own the right of way
Listen to the roaring as we go soaring*

*All together we're banding
And we're hoping for a happy landing
Flying High, Flying High
Finding our place in the sun*

6 Lucky explorers (& one mum who got a much unexpected offer) went gliding on a beautiful clear day in the Easter holidays. As a result of the Community Flying programme operated by Challock Gliding club with much of its funding coming from High Flight, a charity set up several years ago by Stratton Richey, a British Airways Captain the Explorers were offered this opportunity to glide over the Kent countryside. Each explorer had 2 flights - one aero tow (pulled into the air by a powered plane) which was a gentle introduction to being launched into the air with no engine! The flight lasted on



average 12 minutes but all felt it was much longer & all declared it was awesome with a big grin on their faces on exit from the glider. Then one of the ground crew mentioned he needed some practice time in the air for aerobatics but he could not do that with a young person! Would one of the mums like to go up? It took a little persuasion for one mum to go up on her first experience to do aerobatics but she did. Which then encouraged the Explorers to ask for the same experience with their instructors on their next flight! The winch tow does not take them up as high so it was not possible for all and some preferred to spend more time actually flying the glider themselves. One thing they all agreed on though was it was much more of a thrill ride being pulled up on the end of a cable attached to a tractor. It was almost a 50degree angle the observers from the ground reckoned!

Much fun was had by all even though more time was spent watching then flying and the morning disappeared in a blur.



Jo Brookbank,
(Mum with the unexpected offer)

Summer Camps

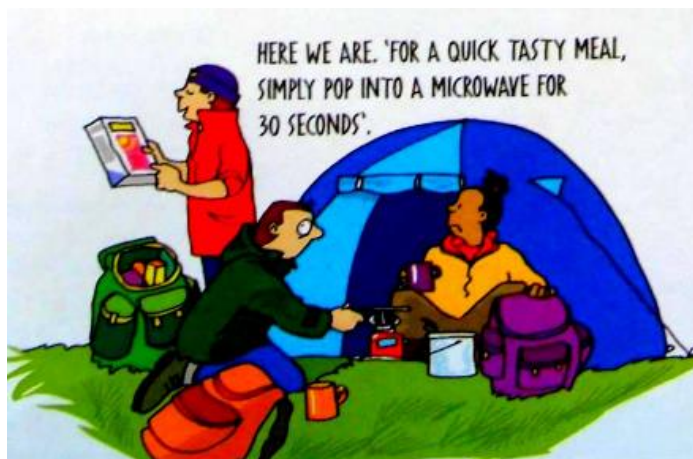
This month Newslink Has brought out a Newslink Summer Camp Extra. This has been circulated on line alongside the regular Newslink so if this copy has been passed on to you from another source and you would like to see the 'Extra' please ask your source who should be able to pass it on.

Recently at the District Scout Leaders meeting leaders were asked to do a County survey about how they camp which involved a small questionnaire.

Hopefully the results of that questionnaire will be

circulated soon and County will share with us some ideas and pointers around Summer Camps.

Look out for this in future editions of Newslink



St George's

Day

Parade

The last Sunday in April usually brings the St Georges Day Parade or as some know it Groundhog Day where for some there is a strong sense of Déjà Vu.

Yes it's the morning you wake up and watch Andrew Marr over a full English with mushrooms followed by an hour of the London Marathon looking out for the bloke in the banana suit, before getting the iron out to smarten up the uniform. Then off to 'the car park behind Tesco's' for the task of forming up and the usual reminders about mobiles and coats and hands in pockets and noise and whatever.

Groundhog Day, Déjà Vu yes it's all those things, but this is also an occasion and an experience and a getting together of Scouts and Scouters and a big show of Scouting and it has taken a whole lot of organisation to make it happen.

Was it me or this year was the High Street buzzing with a much noisier crowd than usual and did anyone else see the bloke in the banana suit jog on by? Oh just me then— note to self; check the breakfast mushrooms.

The Chronicle reported a *bitter* north wind *swept up the High Street hurtling in from the Darent Valley*, it *buffeted the growing crowd of onlookers with a fine mist of rain*. Marshals in their hi-viz yellow tabards *clashed steaming drinks and stamped their feet as they waited for the district's Cubs and Scouts to hove into view for the annual St George's Day Parade*. (*More dodgy mushrooms me thinks. Ed*)

Anyway the District Parade led by the Campaigners Marching Band battled through and arrived at the Church then somehow managed to get seated, some behind pillars or in corners out of sight but seated, and the programme went ahead as planned.

The Parade managed to get reformed just in time to meet the road closure times and start off on the walk back to where it started two hours earlier and was then dismissed. (***Bitter winds hurtling in and steaming drinks were in short supply for the return journey***)

During the time in church many Long Term Service certificates were issued alongside the District Trophies

Some Leaders really like this event but others, whilst happy enough to go along with it, would like to see a change. What do you think?

Research and look around at what other District/ Counties are doing. Would you like something similar?

Group Scout Leaders and Sectional Assistant District Commissioners will normally be asked by the District Commissioner for opinions on how the day went so let your views be known – either way they want to hear it.

Saying nothing now means you cannot say 'Why don't they.....' 'later.



Childsbridge Challenge - Richard Everest
(Assistant District Commissioner – cubs)



Sajo Trophy - 15th
Sevenoaks (Otford)



District Trophy – 7th Sevenoaks (Halstead)



Mickey Spearey - 1st Sevenoaks (Braeside) Cubs



Dudley Barrow - 17th Sevenoaks
(Westerham) Scouts



**AWARDS
2015**



**HOW WENT THE DAY?
THE DAY WENT WELL**



Thank you to the person who took these pictures unfortunately I haven't your name.

To see many more pics of the day go to:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/kaa97cth8d6xw9c/AAAY4OnEbej7_WBD-7GpVkJG8a#lh:null-



The Newslink
'There are just some things
You can't resist'
Section

Caption Quiz
Which of the following fits this
conversation?

Caption 1

Michael Fallon: *Congratulations*

Hugh: *Thank you but others were
Involved as well*

Michael Fallon:

*Yes I know but I actually meant
congratulations on your birthday
and reaching such a ripe old age.*

Caption 2

Michael Fallon:

*Things aren't
looking good, this
could be my last
year.*

Caption 3

Hugh:

*I do have even more
Necker's but they
don't suit my
complexion.*

Caption 4

Michael Fallon:

*Some people say I am
two faced, it's not true
and this **is** a trick of
the camera ...honest!*

Scout Shop News

The Shop will be open on:

9th May

16th May

6th June

You may have read that we would be open
on the 2nd May but of course this is a Bank
Holiday so that will not happen.

Bargain Time

This time last year the whole District were involved in Mag7
and the Mag7 t shirts were everywhere.

We have some Mag7 T shirts of various sizes in the Scout
Shop and are selling them for £1 each.

Hurry Hurry Hurry when they're gone they're gone.

**Please pass on any ideas that you have put into action in your
Colony, Pack, Troop, or Unit**

Please inform us of any dates or events you may want publicised

If you have done anything

SHOUT ABOUT IT!

sevenoaksscoutsnewslink@hotmail.com

Deadline for next Newslink: 29th May