

June 2015

# Sevenoaks Newslink

A Monthly Magazine for Leaders and Supporters of Scouting in Sevenoaks



## 53 BIG SLEEPS UNTIL TAKE OFF

It's now just 53 days until the final stage of an adventure that started nearly two years ago for five Scouts from our District. Tommy, Lauren, Aurelia, Luke and Anthony were all chosen from about 20 applicants from Sevenoaks at a County selection weekend held at Lower Grange Farm, the County HQ, in September 2013.

Tommy Mack tells us some of his story since his selection.

*'Once we were selected we were all tasked with raising our share of the cost of going to the Jamboree which was £2,100 each and was to be achieved by fundraising individually and as a group.*

*Our joint fundraising activities included a stall at the Riverhead Carnival, Riverhead School Summer Fair and golf club cleaning during Captains Day at Nizels Golf Club.*

*My individual fundraising has been a variety of jobs like window cleaning, gardening, babysitting and Jamboree badge selling. Also one of my best friends – a fellow Explorer Scout Oscar Male – did a sponsored head shave for me and raised over £300!!!*

*My biggest fund raiser though is a mountain climb in Slovakia which I planned to do last summer but due to bad weather it got postponed and I am hoping to achieve it on 21<sup>st</sup> or 22<sup>nd</sup> of June 2015. I have now raised all the funds (you can view my page on [mydonate.bt.com](http://mydonate.bt.com) – just put my name in the Search window).*

*The Kent contingent got split up into 3 units – I am in 'TODAI' (Japanese for Lighthouse), Lauren and Aurelia are in Diver-sea-tea, Luke and Anthony are together in The Rolling Stones.*

*Each unit held 8 pre-camps altogether, our last one*

*was at the end of May.*

*We have been getting to know each other as we will travel as a Unit, my Unit went to London to play Monopoly (practice for when we are in Tokyo using the public transport), we did a fundraising bag packing in Morrison, we also did preparation for realistic features of the Jamboree, such as getting up at 5am, walking 2km to fetch food and cooking breakfast for the Unit. We also completed Emergency Aid 3 badge. My Unit also has British Explorers from overseas – Gibraltar and Oman.*

*Also during our last Camp we watched a documentary about the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki because it will be the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary when we are at the Jamboree on 6<sup>th</sup> August and we will travel to Hiroshima to the memorial (not on the 6<sup>th</sup> though). We watched the documentary so that we can understand what happened and we can deal with any emotions or feelings that may arise during the Jamboree when meeting with Scouts from the countries involved. The emphasis being on The Spirit of Unity – which is the Jamboree's Theme this year.*

*My Unit will travel on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> July to Tokyo, we will spend 4 days in Tokyo, then 12 days at the Jamboree, then Home Hospitality when we will stay with a Japanese family for 3 days.'*



# 7<sup>th</sup> Cubs Go Underground

The cubs at the Halstead Cub Pack recently visited Buckmore Park to experience an underground adventure. They were greeted by two of the instructors for an hour session through the manmade caves but although all managed to overcome any fears they may have had they couldn't escape getting a wee bit muddy.

The 12 cubs were transported to Buckmore Park during a normal weekly meeting by parents who agreed between them to car share and had the use of the caves and two instructors for an hour for £40.

The instructors took great care to help and encourage any cubs that showed concerns about going into a small dark tunnel and gave out plenty of 'High Fives' (*I would need more than a High Five to get me in there, Ed*)

Akela will now have to repeat the whole thing for the other 12 cubs in her pack after half term.

One tip for any leaders thinking about this as an evening activity would be to take plenty of bin liners to protect car seats on the return journey.



## Buckmore Park

Buckmore Park is a woodland campsite offering great back to basics camping! Situated in 142 acres of woodland just off the M20/A2 in Kent it provides space for scout camps both large and small. A range of activities including caving, orienteering and archery can be provided onsite!  
[info@buckmorepark.org.uk](mailto:info@buckmorepark.org.uk)



## Patrol Leaders and Assistant Patrol Leaders Training Weekend

14 Scouts from 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> troops attend a one day training day at Weald Headquarters on the 10<sup>th</sup> May.

The Scouts performed various tasks throughout the day where they took it in turns to lead and took part in forums to discuss ideas for future events.

I know that the 4 scouts that attended from the 7<sup>th</sup> troop, where I am an assistant, had a really good day and at least one wanted to attend again next year if possible. Will there be a repeat performance?

The organisers put together the ideas discussed by the scouts and circulated them via Scout leaders in an on- line survey to the scouts throughout the District.

Favourite ideas from the 7<sup>th</sup> troop were Paintballing, Survival Weekend, Quads, Zorbing and Go Ape (high ropes).

Thanks for that guys. Where can we get some younger leaders?

Certificates were circulated to all the Scouts that took part.



## District Directory

Pat and Kevin Crawley have been looking after and keeping up to date the District Directory for almost 15 years. In that time there have been hundreds of changes of volunteers in the District and many many changes of contact details, so much so that I am surprised they never lost the will to live.

Back in the 'olden days' when they took it on there were only hard copies produced and to help leaders keep the hard copies up to date amendments were sent out in Newslink and then a new booklet was produced each year.

Over time 'e' books were circulated and the number of hard copies was significantly reduced.

Recently Pat and Kevin have received most of the changes to the Directory via the Appointments Committee or the Newslink circulation list and have therefore suggested that the Appointments Secretary makes the alterations direct. (*Newslink will notify the Appointments Secretary of any incorrect email addresses*)

Instead of producing a list of amendments a new dated 'e' copy will be sent out with Newslink whenever necessary. When this happens please delete your old copy and save the new one.

I believe a certain amount of hard copies will still be produced each year.

Of course out of the 220+ people listed in the Directory most will only be interested in their page but that being the case please help us by checking 'your' page and notifying us of any changes or mistakes you spot.

I would like to say that in my roles as Group Scout Leader, Assistant District Commissioner (cubs) Newslink editor and other things I have found the Directory extremely useful over the years and would personally like to thank Pat and Kevin for keeping it accurate for all that time.

*Chris*

# District Annual General Meeting

## COULD YOU HELP STEER OUR DISTRICT?

**Invitations** have been sent out for the Sevenoaks District Scouts Annual General Meeting and also the Sectional, District Commissioner, District Chairman and Treasurers reports.

At this meeting the District Commissioner will invite the Chairman to continue in the role or, if that is not possible, choose another person to take the role on. The Chairman (new or continuing) will then take nominations for people to sit on the Committee.

After the Secretary and Treasurer up to five people can be nominated for election of places on the District Committee this is then balanced by the District Commissioner choosing people up to an equal number elected.

District Executive members have an important job to do in Sevenoaks Scouting.

As you will see in the Treasures Report the District Executive look after tens of thousands of pounds of the Districts money. The Executive committee decide what is and isn't spent and what is given out in grants and loans.

The Executive committee are landlords of properties owned by the District making sure they are maintained and also responsible for keeping district equipment in working order.

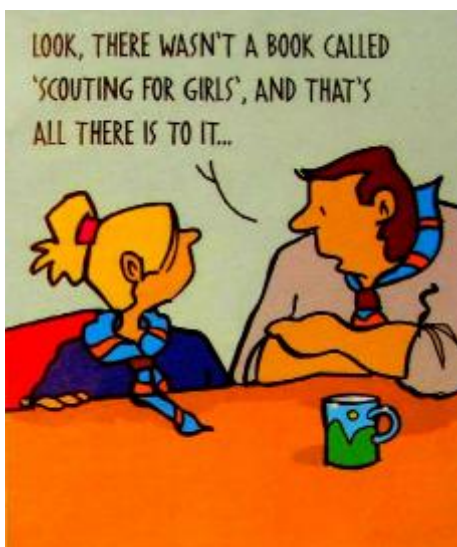
If you fancy a seat on the committee and have a say in our future you can be nominated or even nominate yourself and then you will just need a seconder.

If there are more than five nominees there will be a vote.

If you have ever talked about 'Them' or said 'Why don't they...' now is your chance to have a voice.

District Executive Meetings take place on the second Tuesday of every 'odd' month (January, March, May, July, September, November) at 8pm and last about as long as a game of football.

*No there is not an actual football!*



**Do you  
Remember  
The Last  
Laugh?**

**by Ian West**



## The continuing saga of two electronic communicators



## Cub Scouts Silver Awards Presentations

Will be held on 19<sup>th</sup> June at the Sevenoaks Town Council offices in Bradbourne Vale Road (A25) starting at 6.30pm

## ACTIVE SUPPORT

Are justifying a Pub Lunch with a short hike around the footpaths of Shoreham.  
Anyone wishing to join them meet at 79 High Street Shoreham at 10am.  
Parking is available in the Crown Pub where the walk will end at approximately 12 noon.

## Safeguarding Course

June 2<sup>nd</sup> - 7.00pm  
4<sup>th</sup> Sevenoaks Headquarters

You Should Contact:  
Caroline O'Mahony  
(sevenoaksltm@gmail.com)  
For more information

*Feel safe- not compromised.*



# The Sevenoaks District Active Support

Unit held their annual review at Halstead headquarters during their May monthly meeting where David Reburn took the Chair.

The District Commissioner told the Group that she is still looking for someone to take the role of manager and thanked everyone for the help given to District over the last year.

Unfortunately nothing was heard from the County representative – he may still be looking for the venue.

Among other things it was agreed that some members would look into putting together a package for young people to obtain a badge (to be decided) and a team of people willing to run a badge evening/s when requested by a leader.

The members also discussed if it is necessary for members that have no involvement with young people to have to have a Disclosure check. Chris Mears (*that's me. Ed*) said that he would look into the matter and see if there is any difference between Active Support and Occasional Helper regarding disclosure checks.

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*Having said I would look into the Disclosure check question I found it much more complicated than I first thought and wanted to know not only the answer but why these rules are made.*

*In the end I contacted Wayne Bulpitt the UK Chief Commissioner who put me in touch over the phone with Paul Wilkinson Interim Director of Scouting Operations.*

*Paul thought an email conversation would not allow him to explain the situation in full.*

Paul said that every member that has a role in Scouting, except some administrative roles has to have a Disclosure check. This is because it is illegal to allow people without a disclosure check to work with vulnerable groups.

Q So **all** Occasional Helpers and Active Support members?

A. Yes, but **only** open a role as an Occasional Helper if the person's involvement warrants it.

No need for Occasional Helper status for a once a month parent rota for example

Q. Why a disclosure check if there is no involvement or contact with a vulnerable group?

A. Because it is assumed that if a person takes on a role in Scouting at some point they will or could get involved in a Regulated Activity or an Overnight Experience.

Q. So a person supporting Scouting, let's say catering at an Annual General Meeting for example, alongside Active Support would not need a Disclosure check.

A. Yes that is correct but if they wish to maintain a service record they would need to have a role and therefor a disclosure check.

Q. Is asking for unnecessary disclosure checks against government guide lines?

A. Hmm, let's say it's the lesser of two evils.

Since the Jimmy Saville scandal the Scout Association have come to an agreement with the Disclosure and Barring Service as it is felt that although wrong to do unnecessary checks it is better to be safe than sorry.

**So there it is - Disclosure Checks for all people with a role and why.**

**Newslink relies on your input**

**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**

[sevenoaksscoutsnewslink@hotmail.com](mailto:sevenoaksscoutsnewslink@hotmail.com)