

September 2015

Sevenoaks Newslink

A Monthly Magazine for Leaders and Supporters of Scouting in Sevenoaks



Another September – Another start to an exciting new Scouting Year

and what a start to a new term with three great District activities already planned in the first few weeks and talk of an international camp for 2016.

The cub section start of the fun with the District Commissioner Challenge on Saturday 12th September at the 4th HQ in Mill Lane.

Later in the month on 27th the scouts are going on a rafting activity at Thriftwood camp site in Essex followed in October on 17th at Weald HQ with the Plender Hike.

Hugh Field is sounding out young people (and their parents) who will be at least 14 by August 2016 concerning a trip to Kandersteg International Camp Site in Switzerland obviously we will hear more about this later.

So all in all what with District and I am sure many Group activities there is lots to look forward too and plenty to keep us all busy and on our toes, but let's take a look at what's been happening over the last couple of 'quite' months.

1st Sevenoaks (Pegasus) Troop

Each summer for the past 3 years, we've ended our summer term paddling our cardboard kayaks. We make the boats on one evening and then take them down to the Medway on the last week to experiment with the concept of buoyancy. There are always surprises, boats that float that shouldn't and boats that sink that should float. A great way to end the year and always a good turnout of parents to watch the scouts Titanic moments.



*So Far So Good
But disaster is not far away
(In fact it's on the next page)*

'We may need a bigger bail out vessel'



Looks like great fun.

So sticking with the water theme the Active Support Unit also took to the water but weren't adventurous enough to actually find out how wet water is

Active Support go boating.

On the 9th July some of the Active Support members joined together with the Trefoil Guild and had a great day out on the Wey and Arun Canal. The weather was perfect and a good time was had by all. Everyone brought a plate of 'food to share', and there were a few bottles of sustenance around as well.



Several of the 'Sailors' helped working the locks but fortunately none had to resort to towing the boat! Although the boat, being electric powered, was very quiet, only a little wild life was seen - just a few ducks and a heron. It seemed that they had all disappeared from the mid-day heat.

One of the locks and half a mile of the canal hadn't seen a passenger boat, or any boat for that matter, for over 150 years. This section had only been restored and opened to boats this year! The group were told about the progress of restoration and of many of the problems that had to be solved. The most spectacular being the lowering of a quarter of a mile of canal by six feet to get under a road that had been built since the canal was abandoned.



Many of the 'trippers' took turns at the stern (the driving position) to see what it was like to drive a 22 tonne boat along a winding narrow canal, under bridges and through a tunnel – without hitting the sides!

All in all, a great day out.

Kemsing Beaver Colony

Kemsing Beaver Scouts were challenged recently to raise money for Shelterbox after the Nepal Earthquake. Their challenge was to pack as many tiny items into a matchbox and then request a donation for a guess of the total number from family and friends. They raised £130 and received a certificate of thanks from Shelterbox.

Caroline Copplestone



Groups take on Repairs and Improvements

At least three groups have spent time over the holiday break making major improvements to their Headquarters

The 4th Sevenoaks replaced their two old containers with a nice new container and space to create a Pioneering Store



The 7th replaced three wonky old sheds with a much bigger single shed allowing them to re arrange their camping kit and make space in their meeting place.

The 15th erected a brand new fence around their land to give them security and allow them to use their field for camping



Camp Sites Kept Secret

Although I was hoping to bring you some pictures and news of where everyone camped this year it would seem that Sevenoaks Scouters are a cagey lot and keep this information to themselves, however I can report that the 7th scout troop visited Thorrington Camp Site in Essex.

As an assistant scout leader with the troop I obviously went along and had a brilliant time at this site which I can thoroughly recommend. Just 3 miles walking distance from the coastal village of Brightlingsea the site is set in woodland and boasts many activities.



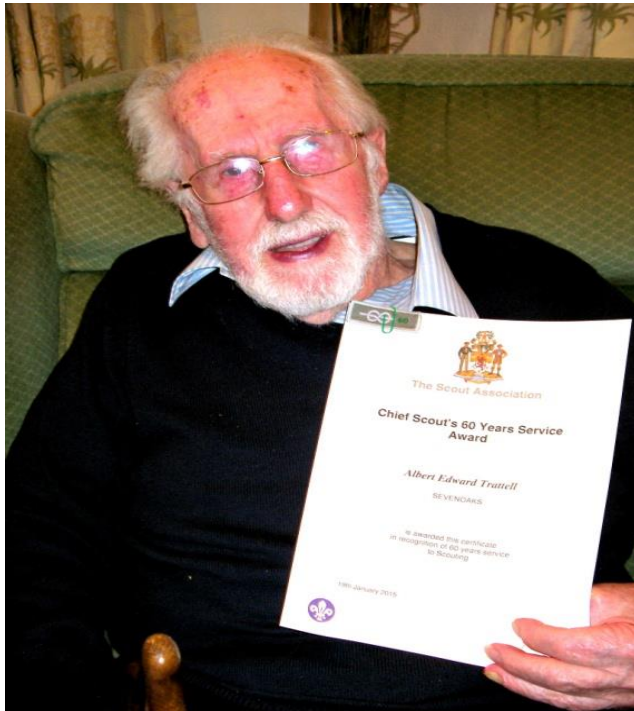
You all obviously have your own pictures like this, it would be great to see some of them.

Whilst on the 7th I would like to give a BIG shout out to Noeni & Eleanor who braved terrible Bank Holiday weather at the Cudham Fair to raise nearly £100 for the 7th Scout Group and promote Sevenoaks Scouting in general. The two scouts planned the stall on their own initiative, well done girls.



60 Years of Service

(but, there's more to come!)



The District Commissioner, Lesley Rutter, presented Bert Trattell with his 60 Years Service Award on the 13th August.

However, Bert still has a few more Awards to go as 'Compass' hasn't caught up with his record yet!!!

Bert joined the Scout movement in about 1936 and eventually became a Scout and then a Rover Scout with the 13th Lewisham South Group.

He was conscripted into the army in 1944 taking part in the fighting through Belgium and Germany. As part of the occupying forces in Berlin he met up with a like minded number of 'Scouts' in the army units and together they founded an Army Rover Scout Troup. They even managed to put on a Gang Show for their units! A home-made '78 - Bakelite' record still exists of part of the show, even after 60 years! (Now on a CD).

After Bert was 'demobbed' he was Warranted as a Senior Scout Leader with the 12th Lewisham Group and remained with them until 1962 when he joined the 6th Sevenoaks (Kemsing) as a Scout Leader. In 1975, Bert was appointed GSL to the 6th and remained in that post until he retired (compulsory then) in 1991.

In recognition of his long Service to Scouting, Bert was awarded the Silver Acorn in 1989.

Even in retirement Bert continued to help Scouting, working via the Fellowship and more latterly through Active Support. Well done Bert, I wonder how many young people have been guided through their Scouting achievements by you. When will we see your 70th and 80th Badges?

SOWA

Have you heard of the Scouts of the World Award?

Well probably not but don't feel bad as it's not one that most of us are aware of although it would seem not Nigel Burgin who spent time over the summer working on it.

Nigel still has to do a presentation to complete the award and he promises to write something for us once this has happened.

This award is shared by over 50 National Scout Associations. In the UK it's only available to Scout Network members, with the aim of encouraging them to develop and support society, locally or globally. SOWA is provided and supported by UK headquarters, but is managed and delivered by a national Scout Active Support Unit.

Good Luck to Nigel on his presentation and we hope to hear more soon.

Scout Shop Poster

Sevenoaks District Scout Shop ~ August to December 2015 (inc. Jan'16)

	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	GRP													
Aug.	31				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	AS
Sep.		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30			7th	
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Oct.				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	+AS
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Nov.	30																																	+AS	
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Dec.		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31		+AS	
																																		3rd	
Jan.																																		+AS	

Scout Shop Open ~ 10am to 12noon; Groups support at Shop (+Active Support);

KCC + Private School Holidays (inc. Bank Holiday weekends); Remembrance Sunday (08.11.15);

Supplier of Uniform for Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers, Network and Leaders

Run by volunteers - usually open first three Saturday mornings (see dates in yellow highlights) excluding School Holidays and Bank Holiday Weekends

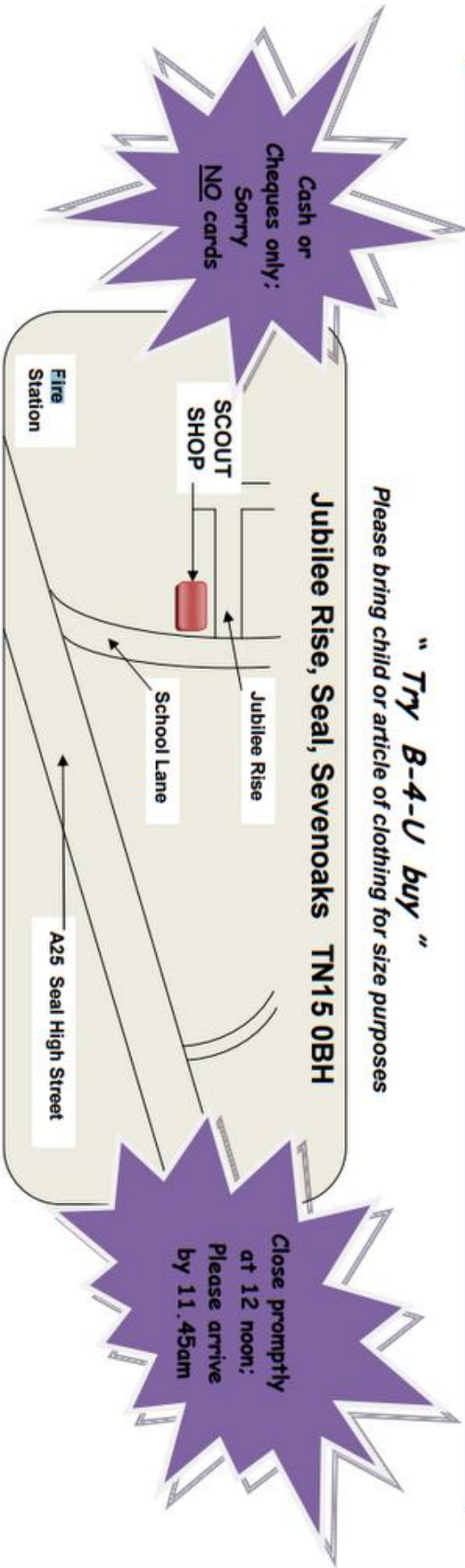
"Try B-4-U buy"

Please bring child or article of clothing for size purposes

Jubilee Rise, Seal, Sevenoaks TN15 0BH

Cash or
Cheques only;
Sorry
NO cards

Close promptly
at 12 noon;
Please arrive
by 11.45am



Riverhead Carnival 20th September 2015

Chipstead Common Bullfinch Lane

12noon to 1600hrs

Run by the 3rd Sevenoaks Scouts this is always a good afternoon out with plenty of scouts in attendance. If you want to have a good time and help out a local Scout Group why not turn up and have yourself a burger, a cuppa, and a jolly good chat.

Oh and don't forget the egg throwing competition – legendry!



Newslink will normally be sent out on the 1st of the month any items you would like to see in it should arrive to me by a couple of days before please.

Why not ask some of your young people to contribute, I'm sure you can use it against some kind of badge or award.