

December 2016

# Sevenoaks Newslink

A Monthly Magazine for Leaders and Supporters of Scouting in Sevenoaks



## **Assistant District Commissioner (Scout Section) John Talbot and Anne Chapman a Sevenoaks Guide Commissioner have recently been invited to Westminster Abbey.**

The annual Scouts and Guides service of Celebration and Thanksgiving was held at Westminster Abbey on Saturday 5th November. This is an occasion where Scouts and Guides can honour their shared traditions and values and say thank you to the many wonderful volunteers both organisations have.

The service celebrated volunteering and marked the 100th anniversary of the Senior Section of the Girl Guides and of 100th anniversary of the Cubs.

The founders of the Movements, Robert and Olave Baden-Powell, are memorialised in the Nave of the Abbey.



Valerie Le Valliant, Chief Guide and Tim Kidd, Scouts UK Chief Commissioner, renew their Promise joined by The Dean of Westminster, The Very Reverend John Hall

John and Anne outside the Abbey.  
John tells me that he was originally notified about his invitation but then told that there wasn't available space. Luckily for him a space became available and he was told a few days beforehand.  
Invitations are sent out to people with long service and John has over 40 years.  
*Go to the back of the class the person that said he certainly looks old enough.*



## Groups across the District celebrate November the 5<sup>th</sup> and rake in a few bob to boot!

Yes it was that night of the year where everyone says a little prayer to Health and Safety and carries on regardless. And thankfully Health and Safety was looking over us and no accidents that I am aware of were recorded. Everyone had a great time with groups reporting that audiences and therefor profits were way over what were expected. In fact, one Group, I think it was the 3<sup>rd</sup>, sent out to Tesco's (other supermarkets are available) for some extra rolls and beer because demand was so high.

I understand that the 4<sup>th</sup> held their celebrations on the 4<sup>th</sup>, just coincidence they always have it on the Friday, and even though it rained all day they managed to find a window in the weather for a spectacular display.

Profits at the 15<sup>th</sup> were up on previous years going into the ?000's. You Lucky People!

The 12<sup>th</sup> joined in the Village celebrations and set light to the President Elect, although they didn't know that at the time. I understand that Edenbridge'ers are now all desperately digging Fall Out Shelters.

Here is Julie Maddens (Cub Scout Leader) report.

*On a chilly bonfire night parade in Edenbridge the local muggles saw the Hogwarts Express with its delivery of keen Hogwarts students heading along the High Street, followed by an amazing assortment of wizarding folk. The chill of the night was enhanced by several dementors who hovered around looking for victims.*

Even Fawkes came to enjoy the flames.



Dumbledore watches on, making sure that all is well



*Well done to everyone involved in the creation of the Hogwarts express, and all those who came and took part. Julie Madden*



**All good  
publicity for  
Scouting and  
Great Fun**



## Sevenoaks Active Support TV Challenge Night and County Quiz

As advertised in last Newslink the Active Support held a TV Challenge Night bringing 10 old TV games back to live 'For One Night Only' teams of nine people each fought it out to be TV champions of the year. Scouting people are very busy and many didn't recognise the shows as they had never had the time to watch them (not so, yours truly) but managed to get through most of the games on offer.

My good lady wife Rose and I were the question masters and presenters with Rose giving us a twirl in her 'posh' frock and myself flashing a bow tie. Highlights of the night were the 'conveyor belt' complete with a cuddly toy and Crackerjack with cabbages. All good fun whatever your age.

*Could you mime Emmerdale in Give Us A Clue? Neither could we!*



*Hi Tech conveyor belt: a roll of paper pulled across a table. Well it worked!*



A team of us then attended the County Quiz in Maidstone for the Scouting Active Support quiz. Now, I should tell you that one year Sevenoaks did come first but that was not to be the outcome this year. We did however come half way down the Leader Board and so proved that there are still some little grey cells lurking around and if we had played our Joker on a different round we could have been serious contenders.



Having had two quiz type events in quick succession it will now be time to put the brains back in the box and concentrate on other things for a while.

*Now, where did I put that box?*

## Fairtrade and Sweat Shops

*So, after asking in last month's Newslink to share what you do and SHOUT about it! I perhaps should lead by example.*

I'm Assistant Scout Leader at the 7<sup>th</sup> Troop in Halstead and we have had a couple of meetings based on how hard it is for young people in some other countries to earn money and help feed their families.

The first week we used an idea from the *E scouts* web site.

This was about the manufacture of Trainers and a little bit like the Trading Post Game.

Each patrol was given some money and a list of how much tools, for making trainers, and materials would cost. They were also told how much it costs to keep their family in food and shelter for a month. The cost of living was added together and had to be paid to the central bank monthly. We then told them how much their company rep would pay them for each completed pair of trainers

The patrols then had to decide how much to spend on tools and how much to spend on materials. Of course, they needed to buy enough materials to make enough trainers to pay their cost of living and materials for the next month.

They then set about making the trainers.

Each month was 15 minutes and we went on for 4 months.

Tools:	
Scissors	Hole punch
Pencil	Sole
template	
Pritt stick	Crayon

Each trainer consisted of a sole, a lacing section, a lace and carried the logo of the company they were working for and of course each pair needed a left and right shoe.

Families (patrols) not making enough money for the cost of living lost a family member for a given period making it harder to reach their target the next month.

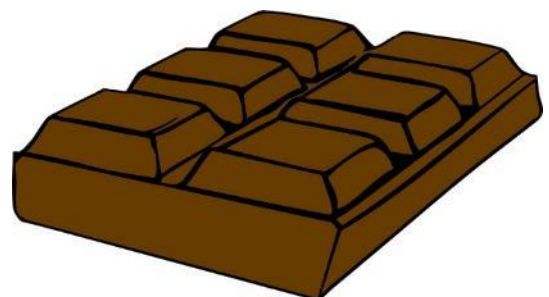
The first month all families failed

The second and third months two families failed but by a lesser margin each time

The forth month all families were breaking even.

If we had gone on we would have adjusted either the cost of materials or the price paid by the reps and put it down to world market forces. The workers would never be allowed to get in front.

The second week we focused on chocolate and Fairtrade. This is a massive subject and so we concentrated on making chocolate sweets and games around facts about how small farmers struggle to make a living and how International trade deals affect them.



The scouts all took chocolate sweets home and we have about 80 pairs of paper trainers complete with laces and manufacturers logos hanging in the HQ.

If this gives any of you, in any section, an idea for a meeting hopefully you will pass on your ideas for others to share as well.

Chris Mears



## Cubs Pioneering Badge or Fun with Knots

On Saturday the 12th of November 31 cubs from 7 packs attended the Cubs district pioneering badge, the day was split into two sessions of 4 hours per session.

Cubs started each session off with a 'get to know you game', then were split into 3 groups.

In their groups, they were asked to make a human knot by crossing their arms and linking up with another 2 cubs in their group, they then had to un-knot themselves without letting go of the other cubs.



Confusion reigns with the human knotting game



Oh, We get it now.



Making Rope, an all-time favourite, and useful too.



Smile lads.

After the fun with the knot game the groups went on to one of the bases set up around the hall, the bases consisted of knots and hitches, lashings and making a piece of rope which they could take home.



Better.



After the Cubs had completed all of the bases they had to put the skills that they had learned into practice, by making a chariot and racing with a member of their team on it.

All of the Cubs that attended that day achieved their badge and had a fantastic time. Richard



Of course, the best part of the day, as always, goes to the Sedan Chair Race. After all what is the point of knowing how to tie a knot if you are not going to build a sedan chair and race it.

So, using all their newly found skills the cubs formed teams and got to work.

"Make sure it's tight enough, I don't want to fall off or worse still through it"



With the construction completed it was time to put the design and hard work to the test.

The Cub Scouts took their places at the end of the hall.

Nerves were obvious as the rider climbed on board and teams jostled for position...

...Seconds to go for the beginning of the

Cub Scout 2016 Sedan Chair Race.....



**3  
2  
1**

**...AND  
THEY'RE OFF**



And the winners were....  
**EVERYONE!**

## IMPORTANT NEWS:

### Safeguarding Resources

The new **Stay Safe Leaflets and Posters** as well as the **Young People First Yellow and Orange Card**, will be available and free to order **ONLY** through the network of District Scout Shops **FROM** today onwards.

This will be promoted by Scout Shops and The Scout Association as the only place to pick up these free resources. This will encourage members to visit their local shop and potentially result in more business for your shop.

**We ask if you can please only order what you need.**

List of resources by product code:

103800 - Small Young People First Yellow Card

103799 - Small Young People First Orange Card

107770 - New Beavers Stay Safe Leaflet

107771 - New Cubs Stay Safe Leaflet

107772 - New Scouts Stay Safe Leaflet

107773 - New Explorers Stay Safe Leaflet

107774 - New Beavers Stay Safe Poster

107775 - New Cubs Stay Safe Poster

107776 - New Scouts Stay Safe Poster

107777 - New Explorers Stay Safe Poster

**Please note:**

**MAXIMUM ORDER QUANTITIES** are 25 leaflets per section per group, 5 posters per section per group, larger quantities available from County Safeguarding Awareness Co-ordinator.

### Parents Guides to Scouting

The new Parent's Guide to Scouts and Parent's Guide to Explorers are now available and free to order **ONLY** through the network of District Scout Shops

107885 - Parents Guide to Scouts

107886 - Parents Guide to Explorers



**Beavers  
Woody Bear  
With Certificate  
£15**



**Cubs Bramble  
Bear  
with Certificate  
£15.00**



**i.Scout Bear  
with Certificate  
£15.00**

**Create your own story with our three bears.**

Available through Sevenoaks Scout Shop



## Cubs 100-year Promise Renewal

Cub Scouts across the Country will renew their PROMISE on the 16<sup>th</sup> December.

Cubs from the Sevenoaks District will meet at Sevenoaks School at 6.30 pm where they will watch a film and see pictures of each of the Sevenoaks packs in action over the years.

Richard our ADC cubs is desperately trying to get as many packs to send in pictures as he can so this will be an exciting display of

what goes on and has gone on in Sevenoaks

over the years.

Didn't I see this in last month's Newslink?  
Yes, so that's twice and no excuse about not  
hearing about it!



**You may have come across** this Logo in your travels and wondered about it. Here is an explanation from the official Scout Shop Blog page.

**Scout Adventure** (previously known as Scout Activity Centres) – the perfect location(s) for your next outdoor adventures. With activities, such as: abseiling, archery, climbing, fire lighting, geocaching, gladiator challenge, hillwalking, kayaking, mountain biking, orienteering, pedal go karts, raft building... and many more!

## Fundraising for Kent International Jamboree



If you had dropped into Weatherspoons in Sevenoaks on the 12<sup>th</sup> November for a swift 'alf you may have thought you'd stepped into a baker's rather than your local hostelry. This was because scouts from the 7<sup>th</sup> were running a cake stall on the premises to help raise funds for next year's Kent Jamboree.

They raised an amazing £420 towards the cost of going which will probably come out at around £4,500.

The public were very generous and many paid well over the odds for their Fairy cakes and Muffins, could the taking of alcohol have influenced them I wonder.

Sevenoaks Scouts attending World Jamboree's are encouraged to raise money against the cost, this not only helps financially but also builds the team of participants and gives them a sense of ownership and achievement.

The leaders at the 7<sup>th</sup> thought that getting their scouts to participate in the same way would enhance the Jamboree experience and give them more satisfaction than having it handed on a plate.

Their enthusiasm on the day would seem to have backed this up and they didn't just stay indoors but ventured out into the High Street and even sold to car passengers waiting at the traffic lights.

Bag packing and a BBQ are in the pipeline for further fundraising.





# Appointments FAQ

## **I have a parent rota for helping with weekly meetings; do the parents on it need to become Occasional Helpers?**

If the answer to any of the below is 'yes', then they will need to be recorded as an Occasional Helper on Compass:

- Will they be helping more than once a month?
- Could they have unsupervised access to young people?

If the answer is no, then they do not need to complete a Disclosure Check and do not need to be recorded as an Occasional Helper.

## **I have parents coming to help on camp this year; do they need to become an Occasional Helper?**

If the answer to any of the below is 'yes', then they will need to be recorded as an Occasional Helper on Compass:

- Are they assisting with overnight activities (a residential experience or night hike)?
- Could they have unsupervised access to young people on the camp?

If the answer is no, then they do not need to complete a Disclosure Check and do not need to be recorded as an Occasional Helper.

## **What about Executive Committee Members?**

Executive Committee Members are formal appointments and should not be recorded as Occasional Helpers on Compass.

## **Can a Sectional Assistant run the meeting without a fully appointed leader being present?**

No, a fully appointed leader must be present. The only exception to this is in an emergency (one off situation), when permission from the Group Scout Leader must be obtained for a sectional assistant to run the meeting with support of other adults (other sectional assistants or parents)

## In Touch

As section leaders, do you all have an In-Touch system that you use during your section meeting, events away from your HQ and when doing a night's away experience? And is your GSL aware of your procedures for this?

If you don't have this in place – talk to your GSL on how to implement this or visit the site below for information.

<https://members.scouts.org.uk/supportresources/2828/intouch?cat=419,26,416>

## Remembrance Day

It didn't go un-noticed by the public that many Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers attended services around the District. Praise came from several quarters about how well behaved the young people were. Of course, we come to expect that of our young people but nice to hear it all the same.

I understand that a scout from the 3<sup>rd</sup> played The Last Post at the service in Dunton Green. Well done that man, I can only imagine how hard it is to play such an emotive piece on such an occasion.



**SO THAT'S IT,  
ALL THAT'S LEFT TO SAY IN 2016 IS:**

- **THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE THAT HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THIS NEWSLETTER OVER THE YEAR, LONG MAY THAT CONTINUE**
- **AND OF COURSE, MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE.**

*obligatory holly, bells and father Christmas*

