

July 2016

Sevenoaks Newslink

A Monthly Magazine for Leaders and Supporters of Scouting in Sevenoaks



Scouts from the 12th Sevenoaks (Hogwarts) Troop Visit the National Scout Memorial

Andy King (Scout Leader) reports

Hogwarts Troops was privileged to be invited to the unveiling of the new Scout Memorial. This was held on the 5th June and we had tickets for 2 leaders and 6 Scouts/Explorers.

It was a very moving day for myself, thinking of all the Scouting family we have lost over the years.

The Scouts made the whole leader team very proud, being very smart and a part of Scouting history. I asked them for a few words to sum up the day, below is what I have received.

I really enjoyed the memorial in Staffordshire. I learnt all about the Scouts that sadly died or were tragically killed in the Armed forces. I felt very honored to be chosen as I had only just joined the Edenbridge group. We were so lucky because it was incredible weather.



My favorite part was seeing the breath taking

sandstone sculptures and the gift shop of course.

I now know things about Scouts that I never knew before.

My Granny was a Girl Guide and my Dad was a Scout. I think my Mum was a Brownie as well, so it is more or less in my blood!

Thank you for giving me this amazing opportunity and I hope to represent Sevenoaks in other events. Lolly St Pierre

*It was a very interesting day,
Even through the journey was long the day was worth it.
I found the story's around the unveiling of the 6 statues
engaging, thought provoking and inspiring.
It made me feel part of the Scouting family, and to try and be
a better Scout because of this day.*

*Thank you **Riley Holmes***

This is why I Scout..... #VeryProudLeader



1st Sevenoaks Cub Scouts Mark the Centenary of Cubs

By Walking The Darent Valley Path

Report from Nick Roberts Cub Scout Leader

To celebrate the centenary of the Cub Scout movement cubs and parents from the 1st Sevenoaks Scout Group recently



spent the weekend hiking the Darent Valley Path, a total of 20 miles. On the first day they completed 8 miles from Sevenoaks to the Eynsford and Farningham Scout Hall where they camped overnight. After putting up their tents and eating a well-earned fish and chip supper the cubs still had the energy to spend the evening playing in the river and the park at Eynsford.



Most of the cubs were awake by 6am on the next morning and after breakfast set off on the second day of the hike. This consisted of 12 miles following the river through Horton Kirby and South Darenth before arriving in Dartford. After a rest and an ice cream in Central Park in Dartford the end of the hike was still over 3 miles away at the flood barrier where the River Darent meets the Thames.



Following the zig zag path on the top of the flood defences the barrier never seemed to get closer but finally it was reached with the cubs tired but happy after hiking for 14 hours over the two days.





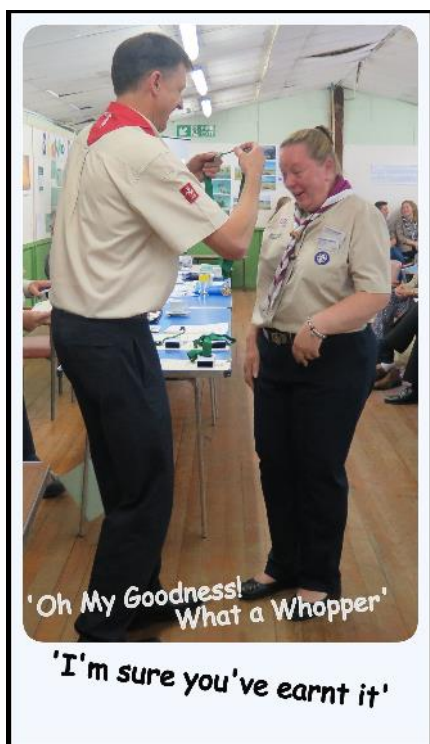
15 cubs managed to walk the whole way and another 10 took part in some of the hike together with over 20 leaders and parents and everybody enjoyed the scenery, history and varied landscape of the River Darent. Everybody agreed that it was a great way to celebrate 100 years since the founding of the cub's section of the Scout movement and a real challenge and adventure for the cubs who took part.

More from the 1st Cubs Hicks Own Pack

At their meeting in early May the 1st Sevenoaks Hicks Own Cubs met at the old Environment Park next to the Leisure Centre in Sevenoaks to do some map work and go on a hike around Knole Park. The cubs were shocked at how much litter there was lying around in the Environment Park area and with the new play area due to open they decided to have a clear up. With the agreement of the Town Council (who look after the play area) and the Knole Estate (who are responsible for the rest of the area) the cubs got on with it. At their meeting on the 15th June they had a litter picking evening and managed to collect 4 black sacks and one yellow bucket full of rubbish as shown in the attached picture. The cubs had great fun doing this and the evening was finished with a game of smugglers and spies in the by then litter free Environment Park'.



RETURN OF THE NEWSLINK CAPTION COMPETITION



EVERY NOW AND AGAIN A PHOTO TURNS UP THAT IS JUST BEGGING FOR AN 'OUT OF CONTEXT' CAPTION

THIS MONTH THE PICTURE COMES FROM THE DISTRICT AGM AWARDS AND IS OF CAROLINE O'MAHONY COLLECTING HER MEDAL OF MERIT FROM DEAN HARDING COUNTY COMMISSIONER.

BEING OLD ENOUGH TO REMEMBER SEASIDE POST CARD HUMOUR THIS IS MY ATTEMPT AT A CAPTION.

CAN YOU DO BETTER?



Whilst on the subject of Awards Can you recognise the different badges?

Here is a breakdown of what they all mean.

Courtesy of the 16th Bermondsey Scout Group

POR Rule 11.2, The Cornwell Scout Badge



Awarded in respect of pre-eminently high character and devotion to duty, together with great courage and endurance. It is restricted to Beaver Scouts, Cub Scouts, Scouts, Explorer Scouts & Scout Network Members.

POR Rule 11.3, Awards for Gallantry



Gilt Cross:

Awarded for gallantry in circumstances of moderate risk.



Silver Cross:

Awarded for gallantry in circumstances of considerable risk.



Bronze Cross: Highest award of the Association for gallantry, granted for special heroism or action in the face of extraordinary risk.

POR Rule 11.4, Awards for Meritorious Conduct



Chief Scout's Commendation for Meritorious Conduct:

Awarded for meritorious conduct of a high standard.



Medal of Meritorious Conduct:

Awarded for meritorious conduct of an exceptionally high standard. A bar is available, but there is no separate cloth badge for it. Instead, a gold fleur-de-lys pin badge is worn on the medal ribbon.

POR Rule 11.5, Awards for Good Service - page 1 of 2



Chief Scout's Commendation for Good Service: Awarded for good service while holding adult roles for a period of not less than five years.



The Award for Merit:

Normally be awarded after a period of not less than 12 years, but exceptionally after 10 years of outstanding service while holding adult roles.



The Bar to the Award for Merit
Awarded for further outstanding service while holding adult roles.

POR Rule 11.5, Awards for Good Service - page 2 of 2



The Silver Acorn:

Awarded for specially distinguished service while holding adult roles for a period of not less than twenty years.



The Bar to the Silver Acorn:

Awarded for further distinguished service while holding adult roles.



The Silver Wolf:

The unrestricted gift of the Chief Scout, awarded for service of the most exceptional nature while holding adult roles.

POR Rule 11.6, Chief Scout's Personal Award



Awarded by the Chief Scout, in consultation with the Awards Board to recognise achievement not covered by the criteria for any other awards.



Commissioner's Commendation:

Can be used by County, Area, Island and (Scotland) Regional Commissioners to recognise adult and youth members and non-members for their contribution to Scouting. It is part of the family of adult awards, even though it is awarded and decided locally.



Thanks Badge:

Means of expressing the appreciation of the Association to those who are not Members or Associate Members but who have been of service to Scouting.

POR Rule 11.7, Chief Scout's Length of Service Awards

Service in the Association is recognised by the Chief Scout's Length of Service Award at 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 40, 50, 60 & 70 year intervals. A certificate & either a cloth emblem or brooch with a white knot & corresponding green number is available to all Members and Associate Members of the Association.



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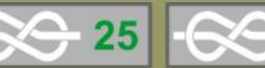


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<http://16thbermondsey.com>

[16thbermondsey](https://www.facebook.com/16thbermondsey)

100 Years of Cub Scouting

Were you there at the start Akela?

Over the weekend of the 4th and 5th June the Cub Section took part in activities at the Downe Scout Camp



Over 70 cubs from 7 packs attended and had a go at archery, abseiling, crate stacking and pedal carts.



The weather was fantastic throughout the weekend and this was a perfect opportunity for the cubs to try some adventurous activities.



Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves (including the leaders!) and some cubs were able to overcome personal difficulties – such as heights!

I would like to thank all the leaders and parent helpers who came and enabled the cubs to have such a fantastic time.



It is hoped that this will become a regular event as there are far more activities there than we had the time to fit in!

Lots more pictures from this weekend are on the District website.

www.sevenoaksscouts.org.uk

Message from the Sevenoaks Scout Shop

With summer term end fast approaching and with a quieter footfall through the door recently we (the team discussed last Saturday) to reschedule the opening times for July –

The last shop opening will be 2nd July 2016

Please make the necessary adjustment to your calendars and notify your parents should anyone still require uniform.

Obviously I am happy to make arrangements via my work place (as before) for anyone in urgent need but require some notice to accommodate requirements/special orders. Should anyone wish to take this route I can be contacted at work on 01732 761724 – just leave a message for Jeanette.

Kind regards,
Jeanette
Sevenoaks District Scout Shop



Scouts Go Rafting

(and some went swimming, although that wasn't the plan!)

The Scout Section recently went rafting at Thriftwood Camp Site in Essex a repeat of the activity which first took place last year. The teams made some excellent rafts and most of them made it across the lake!

Daisy, Charlotte, Kayleigh and Matt's raft even survived intact



And it's Goodbye to Her....



After coming into the Sevenoaks District and starting a Beaver Colony and re-establishing the 9th (Seal) Scout Group Nicky Harvey went on to open a Cub Pack and later a Troop.

Now after about 10 years she is off on another career and another adventure in The Church.

I am sure she will be missed in Seal and around our District and I know we all wish her the best of luck on her chosen path.

Let's hope she can avoid deep puddles and refrain from too many chocolate bars as it would seem these are the downfalls for lady vicars, live births at the Nativity should also be steered clear of.

Good Luck Nicky, don't be a stranger.

On Going Celebrations Take the Beavers to Gilwell

Beavers from around the District went to Gilwell Park for a great day out and lots of exciting activities. I have it on good authority that the singing on the coach was of a high standard and the Beavers are already talking about next year.



Hugh Field reports

Every June, Gilwell Park is opened up for a Fun day. This year the Beaver section decided to visit together on Saturday 18th, the 3rd, 4th, 6th, 7th and 16th took 156 beavers, cubs and adults to enjoy a day of variable weather. Unfortunately, the rain in the week before meant that some of the activities were closed (such as the 4x4, zip wires, high ropes) but we still enjoyed activities including climbing, abseiling, drumming workshops, raft building, bouncy castles, archery, prusicking, fishing, water rockets, low ropes, crate stacking and various arts and crafts.



It may have been damp but it's never too cold for an ice cream!

Special thanks to Kiwi and Zazu for organising everyone, to Caroline, Jo and Hugh for driving the minibuses (we took 2 53 seater coaches and 3 minibuses).



As mentioned at the District All Leaders meeting at the beginning of the year, the District Explorers have voted to support both Porchlight and Shelterbox this year.

The collection at St George's day was split between these charities, so we took the opportunity to invite the local Shelterbox representative to meet with us and take receipt of this part of the donation. Colin, from the Edenbridge Rotarians, visited with his box and tent. After a presentation, he challenged the Explorers to put up a standard Shelterbox tent. The Explorers beat the time taken the weekend before (at the Edenbridge festival) by 8 Rotarians and had a great time doing so!



“When I received a ShelterKit, it gave me the courage to start rebuilding my house because I knew I had the materials I needed for the roof.”

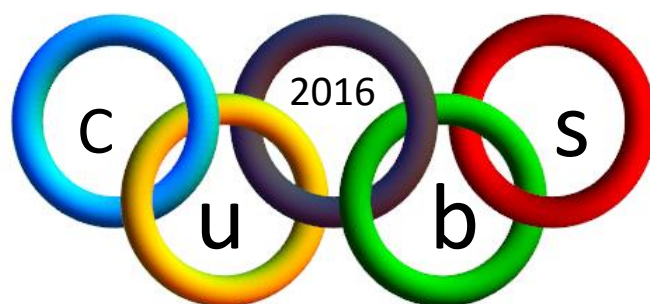
Chief Sonjeka, from Mulanje, Malawi

At the end of the evening, Hugh presented Colin with a cheque for Shelterbox on behalf of the District

District Cub Scouts

Annual Olympics

(Athletes Badge)



On 13th June over 120 cubs from 11 packs in the District descended on St Michaels School in Otford to take part in the District Cubs Sports Cup and Athletes Badge event. The rain kept away and after an Olympics style parade with the packs representing different countries from around the world the games began. All of the cubs had a go at 7 different events including the 50m sprint, the long jump and high jump, the ball throw and shuttle run. Based on their performances in each event they could be awarded the Athletes Plus badge and all of those taking part earned the Athletes badge.



*15th Waingunga Cubs (Mauritius)
celebrate 2nd place*

At the end of the evening two cubs from each Pack took part in a 1,000m race.

The best individual result from each pack in each event was then calculated to determine the results of the District Sports Cup. The winning pack by some distance was 6th Sevenoaks (Kemsing) with 15th Sevenoaks (Otford) second and 3rd Sevenoaks (Amherst) and 16th Sevenoaks (Ide Hill) in equal third place.

Well done to all of those who took part, thanks to the leaders and parents who helped with the organization and a special thanks to St Michaels school for allowing us to use their facilities.

Please remember to look at our District website and keep the information about YOUR group up to date.

Many pictures of District activities appear on the site so you can direct your parents to

sevenoaksscouts.org.uk

so they can see our district is ACTIVE

Please also let us know of any events /activities that you would like included on the District Calendar so that this can be kept up to date.

The Scout Shop Calendar is on the website.

The District Directory is also on the website but you will need a 'log in' for this.

For a 'Log In' please contact Michael Dreksler

Scout Investiture Overseen by the Lions of Trafalgar

On a recent trip to London for a Treasure Hunt around some of the more obscure sights the 7th Sevenoaks (Halstead) Troop took the opportunity to invest their newest recruit in Trafalgar Square. The troop obtained the clues and directions from the 16th cub pack and had great fun seeking out some of the places that Londoners walk past every day without noticing. Of course they had to stop to see the Convent Garden entertainers and take a look in M and M's flagship shop.



First Scout Trip and First Camp for this new member



'Remember doing this at 30mph? Those were the days!'



That Abbey Road moment, You've all done it, admit it.



*Is this the smallest Police Station in London?
Yep, but where is it?*

On return they pitched up their camp and cooked their evening meal over alter fires. Has this whetted their appetite for the 2017 Monopoly Run? We'll wait and see but hopefully Halstead will have a team.



*Betting that this hoarding is something to do with Cross Rail.
Time for a Kodak Moment anyway.*



**Congratulations to everyone that picked up Awards at the recent
Sevenoaks District Scouts Annual General Meeting.**

All WELL deserved

Unfortunately, we may be missing a few pictures.

Apologies if we've missed you out.

Time to Say Goodbye

Many of our longer serving leaders may remember David Duce, who served at various times as a Venture Scout Leader at Weald, Duke of Edinburgh Supervisor and Hills Leader for the District.



*David, for once
facing the camera,
last year in Snowdon
National Park.*

David had been living with Cancer for some years and finally gave up the unequal struggle on the 13th of June. This is often referred to in Scouting as “Gone home”.

David originally joined Sevenoaks as a Scout in Otford, sometime around 1960 – his career as a Scout was short lived, involving as it did Otford Quarry, some gunpowder and a landslip.

David enjoyed working with our young people primarily in the hills. He held a Mountain Leader (Summer) qualification and was an approved D of E Gold Assessor in the Lake District, the Yorkshire Dales and, unusually, Southern Bavaria. He loved nothing better than a long walk in the middle of nowhere – peak bashing was never his thing, he much preferred a walk in an area than no one else would consider. He was a large part of the Otford trip to Bavaria before I joined the District, he supported our trips to Bavaria in 99 and Kandersteg in 2002, 2005, as well as acting as my hills support on several Edenbridge summer camps.

His funeral will be in Conwy on the 1st of July. If you would like any more details or how to send messages to his remaining family, please contact me.

Hugh