

June 2016

Sevenoaks Newslink

A Monthly Magazine for Leaders and Supporters of Scouting in Sevenoaks



30 Year Birthday Bash for Beavers

Beavers from every Sevenoaks Group came together for a Hike, a Picnic, some Cake and a Camp Fire sing-song in Knole Park. Altogether around 250 people attended the bash and joined in the fun.

The clock started ticking on my very own Scouting career in the same year, 1986, as the Beavers and so I consider myself, rightly or wrongly, an Honorary Beaver and went along to join in and record the event.

Beavers started the day congregating at Sevenoaks Prep School or Buckhurst Car Park walked to the Birthday venue covering a distance that would entitle them to a Hike badge

On arrival they rested their weary bones and feasted on the picnic food provided before gathering around the rather enormous fire and songs led by Kiwi.

The weather was reasonably kind but of course wherever there are beavers water will not be far away and in this case a token gesture came from above but thankfully not for long.



Everyone received a cup cake and sang along to Happy Birthday before heading off to home. How many got there before falling asleep on the back seat I wonder.

It was nice to see an event on Knole Park camp site again; they do not seem to happen as much these days as they once did. *Chris Mears*



More of the story from Hugh, or Zazu as some younger members know him.....

'One of the District's best kept secrets is that there is a Scout and Guide camping field in Knole Park – well best kept from the Beaver leaders...until now. The Beaver section decided to hold a birthday party to celebrate 30 years. In true Scouting style it was decided that the party should be in the form of a camp fire, with songs and cake. A date was set to kick off our 30th year in style (21st May), the venue was agreed and all systems were go!

The weather forecast all week had been awful but on the day, the rain held off and the Beavers congregated in two locations – Sevenoaks Prep School and the Leisure Centre car park and walked in to the site, earning a hikes badge along the way. They were greeted with hot dogs, collected wood and then the camp fire was lit. Kiwi and myself led our singing, with special guest appearances from Chris and Rose.

With nearly 300 Beavers, Cubs, Explorers, leaders and parents on site, with at least 1 representative from every group, we had a great time.

Thanks to Kiwi and Zazu for organising our party. Thanks to Ian, TC and Stephen for digging our fire pit, to Strutt & Parker and the National Trust for allowing us to use the site and to Sevenoaks Prep for the use of their car park.



Note: If you want to use Knole Park for an event, please contact Chris McCann who will forward you the details of the site and the form you need to fill out for the land agent. Do allow yourself several months to negotiate the process!

Explorers and Scouts take to the sky – and without an engine!



Four lucky scouts from the 7th, 3rd & 4th troops plus two Explorers got the chance to go gliding on the 5th April thanks to the Kent Gliding Club Community Flying Programme. One Explorer even got to do some acrobatics as it was her second flight. Jo Brookbank

Preparing for the flight and coming in to land. A most exciting day for this group of scouts and explorers. Another group from Sevenoaks will be going up during the half term break . Ed



ON Thursday 9th June - BBQ 7.30pm at Halstead Scout Hut Sevenoaks District Active Support are having a Barbeque

You are invited to join us at Halstead Scout Hut. Please bring your own meat, sausage, burgers, fish etc. to cook on the barbeque and any salad if you wish.

The Committee will provide bread, sauces and strawberries and cream for dessert and tea and coffee.

If you have ever wondered about Active Support, what we do and where we do it

or

**if you are already member of the Active Support but not been to any social events
please come along and meet other members**

*Please make a
small donation for
sundries'*

*Please let Pat Crawley know if you will be coming
so that we can cater for correct numbers.*

*(by the way it
usually rains)*

psc.kjc@btinternet.com

Bridge over the River Eden

So Alec Guinness wasn't there to help us and it wasn't really the Eden, it was one of tributaries, but we did build a bridge!

For the Explorer Pioneering badge, the young people have to demonstrate 10 knots, 4 lashings, whippings, splices, make models and complete an outdoor pioneering project. We spent time earlier this year practising our knots, lashings and designing basic bridges. The wording for the main project says to take the lead – well I can confirm that all of the Beaufighters' unit are great at leading, well they are all very good at issuing instructions



We proved yet again that evening isn't really long enough to complete a project but they all did really well. Reassuringly they had a great time and thoroughly enjoyed using "their" bridge to cross the stream. Thanks to all for committing to the build and special thanks to Ian Killner and Tom Crittenden for helping out on these evenings.

Hugh Field



The Beavers from both Colonies at the 4th

joined together for a 30th Birthday Camp on the 30th April/1st May. Over 30 Beavers took part in completing 30 challenges during camp to celebrate 30 years of Beavers. The most popular challenges were, sawing wood, learning g how to use flint and steel to light a camp fire and making and cooking flatbread on an open fire.

In the evening we had a campfire and sang lots of songs.

For many of the Beavers it was their first time away from home. They slept outside under canvas and that night was COLD! They were amazing. Everyone went home with big smiles.

Rainbow (Pinewood Beaver Leader) Shelley



Biggest thanks of all goes to Shelley for organising a fun filled camp. Shelley's hardwork was rewarded by smiling, happy Beavers & adults, all of whom were looking forward to the next camp before this one ended. Jo Brookbank



Members of the Sevenoaks

Active Support have been on a jolly and visited FIREPOWER – The Royal Artillery Museum and The Greenwich Heritage Centre.

The museum is situated just along from the Woolwich Ferry and a mile and half from the Thames Barrier. The whole area has been redeveloped over the past few years, it will soon have a station on the Cross Rail line and is well worth a visit.



Jeanette and Chris pose with the artistic display of statues that were quite obviously all men



Whilst in FIREPOWER Ken came across a canon which was built in Mafeking railway yards during the siege from bits and pieces of old machinery. The Gun was named after BP whose nickname you may recall was Wolf. Ken recognised the gun as he had recently given a Talk about it to a group of friends.

'Wolf', British, dated 1900

At the Siege of Mafeking during the Boer war, the British were very short of artillery and needed a gun that could hit back at the surrounding Boers. This gun was manufactured in workshops in Mafeking by James Connelly under the supervision of Major Panzera. It was made out of spare metal parts and the wheels were originally from a threshing machine. The British named it 'Wolf' after Colonel Baden-Powell, who was present during the siege (it was his nickname) and used it to bombard Boer positions.

Of course no Active Support outing would be complete without food and we all gathered in the Firepower Café for lunch.

Later a group of us attempted to walk to the Thames Barrier but being the good scouts that we surely are we missed a rather important sign that should have diverted us around a housing estate and so we actually only got to within ¼ mile of our goal.

What we did discover was that although we knew of a foot tunnel below the Thames existed at Greenwich we didn't know of a second one next to the Ferry terminal at Woolwich. Could be useful for a bizarre circular walk.



Although not really recommended for the younger sections this would be a good place to visit if Troops or Exploders were out and about around the Greenwich area.

Some of the team pose beside a 25 pounder, the most versatile of all the guns – Just like Active Support

'Does my tummy look big in this?'

'I'll stick to my scout uniform'

Boom Boom!

No pun intended.



Nights Away (From Mum)

May 2016 has been a great month for camps and sleepovers with over **320** Nights Away achieved by our young members from all sections supervised by about 60 adults and Leaders.

So, who slept away and where:

4 th Sevenoaks Pinewood and Millpond Beaver Colonies	Mill Lane HQ
12 th Edenbridge Beaver Colony	Blacklands Farm
16 th Sevenoaks Beavers	Ide Hill
3 rd Sevenoaks Amherst Cubs	3 rd HQ
16 th Sevenoaks Cubs	Ide Hill (Akela's house)
1 st Sevenoaks, Hicks Own and Braeside Cubs	Eynsford Scout HQ and hike
12 th Sevenoaks Scouts with Explorers	Hammerwood, East Grinstead
17 th Sevenoaks Scouts	Canalability Harlow
3 rd Sevenoaks Scouts with Explorers	3 rd HQ

Ide Hill Beavers Support Porchlight

This year **Shelterbox** and **Porchlight** have been chosen as the District's charities. The collection at St George's day was split between them. As part of the My World Challenge, Ide Hill Beavers decided they would like to contribute to Porchlight. So at a log chew they decided that making cakes and selling them would be a good plan. They asked and received permission to have a stall at the Ide Hill fair (it helps when the Group Chairman is also in charge of the village fair), so it was "ready, steady, bake!"



Bank Holiday Monday dawned grey and cold BUT the brave folk of Ide Hill bought every single one of our cakes.

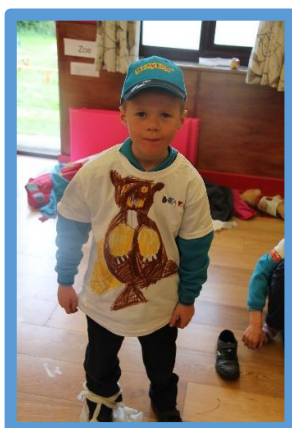


Well done all of the Beavers, you raised £75 for homeless people in Kent!
Hugh Field



Ide Hill Beavers take on 30 Challenges

To kick off our Scouting year, Kiwi (aka Liz) decided we should undertake 30 challenges on a sleepover (is there anyone who hasn't heard that this is the 30th year of beavers). Our challenges included making our own T shirts, building structures:



Sewing badges on to blankets.
Putting up tents.
Making lanterns and First Aid (is there a link there?)
Hand print posters - in these cases of hedgehogs and bluebells.
And of course, campfire:



Thanks to Kiwi, Nala, Kala, Zazu and all the parents who helped out. We had great fun and are all really looking forward to the District Sleepover in September.

H. Field