

October 2015

Sevenoaks Newslink



A Monthly Magazine for Leaders and Supporters of Scouting in Sevenoaks



Cub Scout Leaders Tie the Knot

And no it wasn't a 'granny'



Big Congratulations to Richard, our Assistant District Commissioner for cubs and Stephanie, Cub Scout Leader at the 4th Sevenoaks on their recent marriage in Scotland.

Since the budget for Newslink doesn't run to flights to Scotland we have no other details other than the happy couple stayed across the border for a few days on their honeymoon. I am sure I can speak for Scouters across the Sevenoaks District to wish this popular couple the very best of luck for many years to come and all their troubles are only scouting related.

Blo-Karting



Carl Elmer, Assistant Scout Leader at 4th Sevenoaks has attended a Blo-Karting course and is now able to offer this activity to our young people (and leaders of course). Contact him for further information.



District Commissioners Cub Challenge

Four Packs came together in September to compete for the District Commissioners Cup.

The packs were

1st Sevenoaks, (Braeside), 4th Sevenoaks (St Johns), 7th Sevenoaks (Halstead) and 12th Sevenoaks (Edenbridge) and all four packs did remarkably well to achieve the tough criteria for the competition.

Teams of four or five had to erect a Dining Shelter and Tent big enough to accommodate the team, peg out their camp site area, build two camp gadgets and make a leader a hot drink (tea or coffee).

All four teams completed the tasks in the time given with minimal help from their leaders with some teams using equipment they were hardly familiar with.

The three judges took plenty of time to inspect the four sites and talk to the young people and no one looking on envied their job but when all the scores were added up it was a drawn contest between the 4th and 7th.

The other two teams must have been disappointed in not lifting the trophy but take nothing away from them they did exceptionally well and in the many years I have been involved in cub scouting I have never seen any cubs achieve anything like what these did.

An excellent competition and congratulations to Richard for putting it together and having the faith that our young people could take this on and complete it.



Taking Scouting to the Masses

Riverhead Carnival

3rd Sevenoaks (Riverhead and Dunton Green) flew the Scouting flag during their annual Carnival on Chipstead common. It was reported that 3000 local people turned out on what was a lovely sunny Sunday afternoon with around 70 stalls to keep the punters busy.

It was good to see so many young people in uniform taking part and helping out on stalls. Scout leaders weren't exempt as this picture shows and David Galloway took his turn in the freshly made stocks.

All the old faithful's were there including the coconut shy and the Egg Throwing Contest. It's amazing how Andrew Holland the Group Chairman keeps this going every year using egg-exactly the same egg puns.

I also noticed the Lucky Square sandwich board doing the rounds which is actually two pieces of hardboard taped together with gaffer tape. This has been brought out for more years than the gaffer tape should really allow and makes the Group £50 each time!

This is one of the larger Fairs put on in Sevenoaks and always pulls a good crowd it is also most definitely a good advert for Scouting. *Well done Riverhead I had an egg-citing time..... sorry!*



Edenbridge Motor Show



So while 3rd Scouts were impressing the crowds in Riverhead 12th Scouts were feeding the hungry spectators at the Edenbridge Car Show from their burger stall.

The reason that Newslink knows this is because They were mentioned on the 1st Facebook Scout Group page and so obviously were doing a good job.

The motor show covers all forms of transport including cars, motorbikes, military vehicles, trucks and any other form of transport. There were helicopter rides and a 4X4 track.

This is a family event, with lots of other attractions including live music, stalls and rides and therefor an excellent place to have a Scouting stall. *Well Done the 12th – Proper Job!*

Sail Banners

If your Group is holding or taking part in a public event why not fly the
Sevenoaks Scout Banners.

The District have two of these Sail Banners which really make your presence known. You can borrow them by getting in touch with David Hitchins the District Quartermaster.



Kent Scouts Topper Sailing Day – September 2015

Having tried to book the event for a minibus of Westerham Scouts in May, we managed to secure 10 spaces for the September date of the event.

A mix of Scouts (plus a couple of Cubs and an Explorer) duly attended Wilsonian Sailing club on an overcast Saturday (but with a promise of sun) to meet David Wraight of the Kent Scouts Sailing team, to take us through instructions, boundaries and a safety talk.



Whereupon, with two to a boat (one to steer the other to ... Hold the mast in place?) the first six ventured onto the blue water of the River Medway, leaving those on the shore to guess who would be the first to capsize.



Having watched the first boats out there for 10 minutes, gracefully keeping within the marker buoys (almost) the first boat to capsize went very quickly, followed by a second and a third boat.



Each time, the Scouts were helped out of the water by the safety boats, back onto their craft and to continue learning the Skills to keep themselves out of the wet stuff with varying degrees of success.



After a break for lunch and with the wind getting up, we piled into the Safety boats for a sightseeing trip along the River Medway as far as Rochester, taking in the sights of Rochester Castle, Chatham Historic Dockyard and a Russian Cold War Submarine.



On return to the sailing club, it was back out on the water for another couple of hours, sailing, during which time the leaders even had a go. The leaders managed to avoid the fate of capsizing (I can honestly say that I don't know how – although one did manage to lean back, then promptly fall out of his boat).

Finally, after a very full and tiring day, we made our way back home, with lots of comments from parents about how well they slept that night.

The Final verdict, a fun and enjoyable day and looking to do it again in the near future, so thanks To David and the other leaders and Explorers from the Kent Scouts Sailing Team.

Russel Porter
Scout Leader
17th Sevenoaks Westerham



Want Help with an Activity

**MAKING EVERY DAY
AN ADVENTURE.**



Kent Scout Activities Team will support you and show you how easy it is to get out there and have some fun. The team is made up of Scout Active Support Units (SASUs) who focus on specific activities.

Please see
website www.kentscouts.org.uk/activities
Email: activities@kentscouts.org.uk
Twitter: [@activitieskent](https://twitter.com/activitieskent)
ACC Activities: [Andy Trill](#)

Sevenoaks Cubs join in the Fun

Cubs from Packs in Sevenoaks were invited to an Activity Day at Lower Grange Farm the Kent Scouts Headquarters in Maidstone. From the look of the pictures they had a great time.



Thanks to Loretta Murphy Assistant Cub Scout Leader at the 7th for sharing these pics





More Water Activities For Sevenoaks Scouts



29 Scouts from 1st 3rd 4th and 17th

Chose the perfect day to get in to the minibus and shoot of to Thriftwood Camp site and Activity Centre for a day of rafting. They built their own rafts with the help of a diagram and tuition from the leaders Michael , Chris, Carl , Russel ,Fred, Caroline. Dominic and a parent helper Donald

We emphasised the importance of doing the square lashing right and tight and getting the spars in the right place, a few succeeded and paddled up and down the lake while the rest floundered in the water because their rafts fell apart.

Never the less a good time was had by all, most of them got very wet in the lovely warm!!!! muddy September water.

They all agreed that it was a good day and would do it again and may not get SO wet next time with the knowledge they had gained.

Assistant District Commissioner for Scouts, John Talbot, arranged the day, pictures from Caroline Mahony and Sevenoaks Scouts Facebook page where you can see many more.





*So, which of the rafts earned the name
Kon-Tiki?*

Thriftwood is a great place for rafting and only
about 40 minutes away.



Explorer Summer Camp – Collard Bridge, North Devon

We decided this year to travel to North Devon searching for sun, surf and wild adventure. Well we found the surf, the sun was mostly conspicuous by it's absence and the wild adventure seemed to consist of working out what to do when camping in a seemingly never ending supply of rain!

Camp started well, if a little early with a 7am departure from Sevenoaks but a 4 hour run to North Devon. We did so well that we had all our canvas pitched and kit stowed before the warden appeared to tell us I had remembered the correct site! The sun shone on that first day and all appeared well with the world.....until supper time when it started to rain. It rained all day on Sunday, it rained on Monday and Tuesday so what do you do when it rains? You carry on camping...

I'd tasked the Explorers with catering for the first few days of camp in groups, which included budgeting, shopping and cooking – the local supermarket suddenly became a point of great interest.

We started with Lasagna, had a traditional Sunday roast, tortilla wraps, sausage and mash and pizza to celebrate Oscar's birthday.

We even had a cake made at camp;



Our activities included coasteering - involves rubber, water and jumping around – just about right for Explorers:



Surfing at Putsburgh – involves more rubber, more water and falling off planks of wood...



.....and climbing at the aptly named Valley of Rocks...which seemed to suffer from a lack of rubber, a definite lack of water and fortunately definitely no falling:





We finished by splitting the group in 2, one group took part in a silver D of E practice hike, whilst the others enjoyed more surfing, chatting (?) with the locals and not so locals as we manoeuvred a van and trailer through the lanes in Devon and helping break camp.

My thanks to everyone who came on camp, you all brought something special with you and contributed.

I hope you all learnt at least one new thing!

Hugh Field

VJ Day 70th Anniversary at Chartwell

On the 15th August 1945, the end of the Second World War was formally celebrated with Victory over Japan day. For many service men, including my grandfather, that date marked the end of a period of nearly 3 years captivity in prisoner of war camps. He only ever told a few stories about life under the Japanese, I do know that was not much fun, food was scarce and conditions poor. My father and grandmother did not recognise him when he caught the train home back to India, only the dog knew it was him from his smell! However, he must have been a stalwart, he was awarded an MBE(M) for his work in keeping up morale in the POW camp!

This year, in my role as a DDC, I was asked by Wayne Thornton, who is a Dad of a cub and a beaver at Ide Hill and in charge of promotional work at Chartwell for the National Trust, if I could arrange for a few members from District to attend the 70th Anniversary parade at Chartwell.

The local groups (Edenbridge, Ide Hill and Westerham) were invited to provide a few representatives for the parade. Unfortunately, many of each group were on holiday but Edenbridge and Ide Hill between them made sure we were represented with 2 beavers, 2 cubs, a Scout and 3 leaders present.



I took great personal pride in marking this occasion, and I would like to thank the Sarah Clubley and Sarah Davies from Edenbridge in helping to mark this event. The Legion (who ran the parade) were especially impressed with our young people, and many of them, and members of the general public, took the time to compliment the youngsters on their turnout and behaviour.

Well done all of you and thank you for helping mark the occasion. *Hugh Field*

Keep abreast of what's going on in Sevenoaks Scouting

By logging into **Sevenoaks Scouts Face Book** page

or visiting www.sevenoaksscouts.org.uk

The District are trying to keep these lines of communication up to date and knowing they are used is a great help.

Next Newslink will be around about 1st November. Please send me anything you would like included by 28th October Thank You