



# TOM TOM



## The Newsletter of Hastings, Rye & District Scouting April 2011

### News From The DC

Well done to everyone that entered the County Overland Hike and congratulations to the Hastings Explorers who came a very impressive second. I was helping at one of the checkpoints and it was great to see all the teams working so well together. A lot of time and hard work was put into preparing for the hike, and the Leaders must be congratulated as well, for without their encouragement and support the Young People wouldn't have the chance to take part in such a challenging event. Thank you.

Last Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> April, the Castle, Caves, Ocean World, and Old Town were invaded by approx 180 Beavers, Cubs and Leaders, many dressed as Pirates. The sun shone and everyone enjoyed themselves and the day ended with hot dogs. Thank you to Kevin Barton for organizing the Day.

Congratulations to Sarah Griffin who has been appointed Assistant District Commissioner for Beavers, and Kevin Barton who has been appointed Assistant District Commissioner for Cubs. Thank you to both for agreeing to take on the roles, I know they have plenty of ideas for District Activities. Sarah can be contacted on 01424 444146 [gsj.griffin@bopenworld.com](mailto:gsj.griffin@bopenworld.com) Kevin can be contacted on 01424 729892 [keybarton@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:keybarton@tiscali.co.uk)

GSL's and Section Leaders it is your responsibility to make sure that EVERYONE that helps completes the relevant forms as soon as they volunteer. The Appointments Advisory Committee have told me that they have recently seen people that have been helping in Groups for a while and have not been asked to fill in any forms, therefore they are not CRB checked. This is not good enough so please be more aware. A letter will soon be sent to all Groups from the Chairperson of the Appointments Advisory Committee.

I look forward to seeing you at Our St George's Day Parade on the 17<sup>th</sup> April, let's hope for good weather. The next Drop in Training is on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April, then Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May, Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> June, all at the 1<sup>st</sup> Hastings Scout Hall, Oxford Road, 7.00 – 9.00pm.

**Judith**  
[dc@hastingscouts.org](mailto:dc@hastingscouts.org)  
Judith Collins 07742 950636

### Claire Gets Hot Feet

I've Signed up to the St Michaels Hospice Firewalk again this year which is taking place on the 20th April at William Parker School 8.45pm If you would like to sponsor me or come and watch I would really appreciate it  
I have a sponsor web page of <http://www.justgiving.com/Claire-Davis5> which makes sponsoring even easier.  
Thank you **Claire Davis** Cub Scout Leader .

### Scout Active Support News

A small group of our SAS unit travelled to Steyning last weekend and manned a checkpoint on the Overland Hike once again. We were just on the edge of Steyning Bowl, which, had the day been a clear one, would have been a fabulous view. As it was it was a bit dull, so the view wasn't as good as it might have been. The day was reasonably bright and still though,



What a view!

which made our lives far more pleasant and simple. Sadly it was not the weather that the several paragliders who turned up wanted. They never did really fly at all well, so whilst we enjoyed the weather, we didn't get to see the paragliders at their best.

The young people who were taking part in the hike were, however, great fun and it always makes me feel that this is such a good event to be involved in. You really do get to see young people meeting real challenges on this event. We did Kim's game as an activity and most teams scored really well, which suggests we may have made it a bit easy, but having said that, it must be quite encouraging for the youngsters to score really well at some of the activities. Of course, some are far more challenging than ours and we are blessed in that we always get given a 'fun' activity to do.



Must be time for a cuppa?



Do we know where we are?

My thanks go to Judith, Ann, Mike Hart, Liz, Peter and Gill, and Michelle for making themselves available for the day and to two other of our members, Albert and Becky, for being part of the organizing team.

**Mike Botten**  
Hastings, Rye & District Scout Active Support Unit  
[michael.botten@btinternet.com](mailto:michael.botten@btinternet.com)  
05601 753481

## Practice Makes Perfect

### 1st Hastings Overland Practice Hike

This year we decided we were going to enter the Overland Hike so on the 25<sup>th</sup> February 8 scouts, Alfie, Kieron, Andrew, Connor, Louis, Kelly, Callum and 5 leaders, Spike, Foxy, Toady, Panther, and Harti met at Westfield Church for a practice hike to Brede and back camping overnight at Brede Scout hall.

All us scouts had to carry the same weight and gear including food in our packs as if we were going on the overland hike and we also had to plan the route ourselves using a map and compass.

Our first stop was for lunch at the Kings Head Pub, outside in the rain! Then we carried on until we came to a steep hill which took us up out of the valley into Brede, we went up and down so many hills we could have been playing the Grand Old Duke of York game. We finally got to the scout hall and then had to put up the tents in the rain and Alfie was right when he said that putting up the tents was a painful affair we were completely exhausted and washed out and we still had to cook dinner.

We got the fires going and had Beanfeast and rice with swiss roll and custard for pudding. Then all the girls of the group went inside (eg Harti, Panther and Kelly) at about 8 o'clock while the rest of the scout troop stayed outside (eg all the men) we stayed out till about 10 then went to sleep due to the rain. We got woken up about 7 o'clock to get ready for the day of hiking ahead. We had weetabix with warm powdered milk which was rather lumpy (it was disgusting) but the warm hot chocolate was good.

We packed up camp and headed off. When we reached our first checkpoint for the day we saw some ponies and llamas and we realised we would have to go through their field but the horses were scared by Spike and ran off. The people at the back were being followed by a fat little pony.

When we reached our lunch destination in the Great Wood we were attacked by hungry dogs we tried feeding Connor to them but their owners complained he didn't have enough meat on him.

We were walking to our next point when we met some runners who said there was a MacDonalds up ahead, they were lying. By this time we were all completely muddy and wet but still quite happy! We played a game of yes and no with a yop bottle, if you said yes or no you had to carry the bottle and then try to pass it on. We had been walking for a while when we came to the Westfield sawmill then we just walked up the road to the church and we had completed the hike.

By **Kieron Bracey** 1<sup>st</sup> Hastings Scout Troop



## 1st Hastings Compete in Overland

As GSL of the 1<sup>st</sup> Hastings Scout Group I would like to say how proud I am of the 4 scouts who took part in this years Overland Hike. Kieron Bracey, Alfie Rolph, Andrew Burch, Connor Gerrard.

They put in a lot of practice over a number of weeks and then did a trial hike to Brede and back covering the same amount of miles as the overland and completing different tasks at given check points whilst having to carry a certain weight in their ruck-sacks. I had the pleasure of being there to see them off on the



challenge and also to be there when they received their certificates and their smiles say it all. My thanks go to the leaders, Chris Jarvis, George Rolph, Matt Aucket, and Karen Squire for they time and effort they put into making sure the team were ready and able to take part.



They really are a great Troop! Well Done!

**Harti.** (Angela Johnson GSL 1st Hastings Scout Group)

## Shelterbox - Find Out All About It!

Westfield Cubs and Scouts took part in the Shelterbox challenge last year and raised enough money for one Shelterbox. If you would like to find out more about the charity, come along to Westfield Scout hut on Tuesday 3rd May at 6:30pm. Two Shelterbox volunteers are making a 10,000 mile tandem ride around the world to raise money for



Shelterbox and to raise awareness of the charity and are coming to talk to our Scouts about their trip and about Shelterbox. Shelterbox responds to emergencies all over the world sending their green shelterboxes, most recently to help people in Japan following the devastating earthquake and tsunami. Huw and Carolyn Thomas are in Australia at the moment and have already visited New Zealand, Canada and the USA.



<http://www.shelterbox.org/about.php?page=9>

Thanks

**Frances Richardson** GSL 1st Westfield Scout Group

## Every Little Helps!

Just for interest, Scout Groups can now register to receive the Tesco's and Sainsbury's vouchers which can be redeemed for sports equipment etc.

Only takes a few minutes online with Sainsbury's [www.sainsburys.co.uk/activekids](http://www.sainsburys.co.uk/activekids) and with [www.tesco.com/schools](http://www.tesco.com/schools) you have to call 0870 010 0708.

Anything for free is greatly appreciated.

**Lucinda Matkin** 14th Hastings Guestwell Group

## For Sale

Adult Fleece Large & Adult Fleece XL

If anyone interested please ring Jackie Leonard  
07980 985505 Or [Leonard.family@talktalk.net](mailto:Leonard.family@talktalk.net)