



TOM TOM



The Newsletter of Hastings, Rye & District Scouting

September 2011

News From The DC

I hope you all had a good summer break, and are all set for a new term.

Everyone I have spoken to recently seem to have had successful camps, and on the whole the weather was kind with nobody having to pack up early. I have met with the Sectional ADC's and we have arranged the following meetings, all being held at the White Hart, (Beefeater) Guestling.

Cub Leaders; Thursday 15th September; 8pm.

Beaver Leaders; Thursday 22nd September; 8.15pm.

Group Scout Leader / Group Contacts; Wednesday 28th September; 7.30pm.

Scout Leaders ; Thursday 13th October 7.30pm.

Please make sure your Group is represented as important information is given out at these meetings, it is also a good time to meet the new ADC's and other Leaders in the District and have your say!

Joining enquiries are still coming to me regularly, so please let me know if your section is full. I don't want to give out details of a Group that can't take any more Young People. Drop in training sessions start again on Tuesday 20th September and then Wednesday 12th October. There a quite a few Leaders that haven't been to a training session for a while, so if you are one of those and there is a problem with you getting to a session PLEASE contact me.

Between us Stuart and I will be visiting the Groups and look forward to seeing you all.

Judith

dc@hastingscouts.org

Judith Collins 07742 950636



24th Cubs Visit Hastings Town Hall



The Cub Scouts from the 24th Hastings Scout Group visited the Town Hall at the beginning of July to completed part of the Local Knowledge Activity Badge and meet the Deputy Mayor Councillor Alan Roberts who invited the Cubs into the Mayor's Palour and told them about the roles that the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor have to fulfil.

The Cubs then went into the Council Chamber and Councillor Roberts answered questions that the Cubs asked about the Town Hall and what happened in the Council Chamber. Councillor Roberts also presented the Cubs with their Local Knowledge Badge. Three new Cubs each made their promise and were invested into 24th Scout Group.

The Cubs and the Leaders would like to say a big thank you to Councillor Roberts.

Lizzie Cockerton (Akela)



Westfield Scouts Survival Skills Camp

Seven Westfield Scouts gathered at the Scout hut in the pouring rain to collect up some equipment for a survival skills camp. With everyone dressed in their waterproofs we set off to the field, unloaded kit and said goodbye to their parents. It was at this point that the rain stopped and apart from brief showers held off to the end of camp – what a relief!



Sleeping in the shelter

The Scouts built shelters from sticks and leaves and slept in them for two nights. They made fishing spears and caught 'fish' from the stream and learned how to set snares for rabbits, then how to skin a rabbit and cure the skin. They lit fires with a fire steel and cooked food on sticks, in the embers, in clay, in leaves and underground. They set up a solar still and a transpiration system to collect water and foraged for blackberries. They also tried their hand at carving utensils

from sections of a fallen tree.

After taking down their shelters they all headed for home with trophies, such as rabbit skins, knives carved from wood or fishing spears, for a bath and a good night's sleep.



Cooking eggs on a stick

Frances Richardson
Westfield

3rd Hastings Summer Camp Adventure

The 3rd Hastings Scouts tried a new style of Summer Camp this year, for the first time. 10 Scouts, 4 Leaders and 2 Young Leaders embarked on a 'hike camp', nicknamed by a Leader a 'snail safari', as they carried **everything** on their backs in rucksacks - personal kit, sleeping bags, tents, cookers and some food. Some of the packs seemed bigger than the people carrying them, and probably weighed more!



On the Monday, they travelled from Hastings to Wareham, in Dorset, by train (3 changes) and to the campsite at Harman's Cross by public bus. Trying to negotiate 16 bodies and rucksacks on and off trains and buses, sometimes in a short space of time, was an achievement in itself.

They spent 2 nights at this public campsite, cooking their first meal on Trangia stoves. Tuesday was a 'fun-day' in Swanage. The weather wasn't kind, but the Scouts thoroughly enjoyed travelling there by steam train, and sitting

on the harbour dangling crabbing lines into the sea. The weather cleared in the afternoon, and this time was spent swimming in the sea and building sandcastles. You wouldn't think they came from a seaside town, would you?

Fish and chips were eaten on the harbour, then back on the steam train (where they were allowed to stand on the footplate when at the station), to the campsite and a spectacular sunset.



Wednesday was the 'walk' day. It was warm and sunny, perfect hiking weather. Camp was struck, and they walked about 6 miles across the Purbeck Hills to Old Harry's Rocks. 4 tough Scouts and 4 Leaders continued for a further 4 miles, whilst the rest took a bus to Shell Bay, where they all met up again about 2 hours later in time to catch the Sandbanks Chain ferry, then the highlight of the trip, the ferry to the 2 night stay on Brownsea Island. There are various campsites on the island, but unbeknown to the 3rd until their arrival, they were allocated the site just yards away from BP's original 1907 experimental camp!

What a privilege!

There was a group of Portuguese Scouts in the next field, dressed in traditional uniform and even BP hats, and international relations were soon struck.

Dinner was cooked on trangias again, with a very friendly peacock eating the remains from the cooking pots, and bread from a Leader's hand! On the Thursday, 2 Leaders had to leave the island to go shopping as there are no food shops on Brownsea. The Scouts did a conservation project, then after lunch (brought back just in time by the Leaders!) they had an orienteering challenge. They also did the BP trail, which involved learning much about the origins and history of Scouting.



They were treated to a surprise on Thursday night, after a bar-b-q dinner, of a firework cruise. They walked back to Brownsea Quay, about 30 minutes from the campsite, in the dark, to meet a ferry which was lit with fairy lights, for an hour and a half trip around Poole Harbour to see the fireworks let off from another boat on the water. As they walked back to camp, being a bit spooked by the deer eyes shining out from the woods, they stopped at the flagpole on the 1907 site, sang the night-time song Taps, and all remade their promise. It was a very special moment.

Friday, camp was struck, and the Scouts were shown how to build a shelter, fireplace and bench seat according to BP's original instructions in 'Scouting for Boys'. They bought badges, woggles and wristbands in the shop, then it was on the ferry to Poole, and by bus to the final campsite, Butcher's Coppice, on the edge of Bournemouth. The heavens opened as the tents were put up, but they all did extremely well in keeping everything as dry as possible. Back on the bus to Splash Down for 2 hours of fun in the water park, then dinner at Pizza Hut! (Yes, they did sing the song!).

Supposedly a lie in was available on the Saturday morning, but you know that doesn't happen at camp! Final strike, and into Bournemouth by bus. The Scouts were given money for lunch and time to buy any last souvenirs, and the Leaders had a well earned rest in the park whilst fielding the usual 'Dyb Dob' and 'Hello Campers' comments with (forced) smiles on their faces!

On the train to Southampton, then to Brighton, during which they had a picnic tea, then finally back to Hastings, arriving at 10.30pm.

All were exhausted, but agreed, despite the weather and travelling, it was one of the least stressful and most enjoyable camps they had done! Well done and thank you to Jo for organising it.

Jane Hart



Beaver Sleepover



It was a wet weekend at the end of July when 22 Beavers gathered from the 1st Hastings and 6th Hastings to hold a sleepover under canvas!!!

For some of the children it was the first time they had slept away from home and they were nervous and excited, but not quite as much as the leaders!!!

The Beavers went on a wet walk through the woods, made Olympic torches, took part in games and various activities and had a wonderful camp fire to finish with on the Saturday, they collected the wood themselves. All the Beavers slept under canvas and were fantastically behaved.

Sunday saw the day start with Fish fingers, Angelas idea!!!! and we had lots of team games finishing with an olympic medal ceremony before all the Beavers went home at lunch time.

All the leaders agree that the Beaver Sleepover, under canvas, was fantastic and the Beavers are looking forward to the next one.

Claire and Angela

Claire Davis

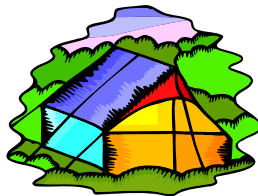
clairedavis@homecall.co.uk

Angela Johnson

angela_1hastings@yahoo.com

A Leaders Reflection on Summer Camp!

Whoever thought it would be a good idea to take a varied selection of young people, who may or may not know each other well, of different ages and abilities, away from their ever trusting parents (whom they may not have left before!), ask them to live for a week or so together under a thin piece of fabric (which has the enormous potential to leak!), sleep cocooned inside something that resembles a sausage skin, on cold, hard, often wet and muddy ground, possibly in the middle of nowhere, the only facility being a cold tap, in any type of weather that the British climate may throw at them, cook for themselves, possibly something very different to what Mum feeds them, keep themselves clean and tidy, free from injury and argument, take part in new experiences, some often physically challenging, with adults whom they might know only through meeting once a week in a warm, dry, clean and safe environment, and expect them to have fun???



Oh yes, it was our founder and inspiration - BP – to whom we as Leaders and the young people we care for owe such a great thank you! What a wonderful idea he had, and how fantastic it is to see it thriving more than 100 years later, because despite all the hardships, the children love it!

We may come back from every summer camp and vow 'never again' but if truth be told, we know we are already planning next year's adventure!

Anon

11th Go Mining (& Camping)

"The 11th have just had a very adventurous trip to the Forest of Dean in Gloucestershire. We used Beaver lodge in Parkend as our base and camped on the adjoining land. During the time away we visited the National Welsh Coal mine museum and went down underground to experience what life would have been like for the miners not so long ago.

A trip to Clearwell caves saw some of the leaders wishing they were a few inches thinner when we had to squeeze through some very tight holes in the caverns, much to the amusement of some of the scouts.

Believe it or not the photo shows us relatively clean before going underground!

This was of course followed by a trip to the local swimming baths, where the water turned a vague colour of Orange.

The mornings climbing at Symonds Yat

and 5 mile afternoon Kayak on the river Wye left us all absolutely exhausted but at least we all slept well that night.



My thanks, as a new Scout leader, must go out to the scouts, the other leaders and Eddie (Parent) who made the whole thing possible and very enjoyable.

Andy Pope

11th Hastings

Our New Web Site

The same

www.hastingssscouts.org

but with a new fresh look.

Over the next few months

we hope to have more features such as an acces-

sible (by pin code) contact list, an easily changeable diary, group list, etc etc. Lots of new features and a few old favourites (Tom Tom etc)



Our thanks to Chris Rogers for putting this together and please contact Chris if you have any comments or suggestions that you would like to see.

Chris Rogers

webmaster@hastingssscouts.org

NETEX Challenge

Final reminder for the upcoming NETEX Challenge (see attached poster) in a few weeks time. Entries are still possible.

Hastings has a reputation to uphold, so a good turnout is expected.

John

EDSFAT



Explorer Summer Camp to Villeneuve, Italy 2011



After leaving an hour late from Falaise Road, we arrived at Dover with plenty of time to spare. At Calais we had a while to wait for our ferry, so we had something to eat at the terminal. We got bored so decided to have a sit down in the area called 'Additional seating', you can hardly call a dozen seats additional seating. Half an hour later we boarded the ferry and set sail for France. After a cold cup of tea and some chips we departed from the Ferry and drove into France. Due to a peculiar French bank holiday which banned us from driving our coach on French roads, we took a slight detour through Germany and Switzerland. After



being a few Euros less well off due to pay-per-use toilets, we eventually made it through to Italy. The only thing we had to pass through was the very long Mont Blanc tunnel. On the other side it was only a matter of driving down some Italian roads where we reached our campsite. In all, the journey took 23 hours and we were only 2 hours late for dinner. The dinner was tasty but I can't remember what it was because I ate it too quickly.

The first day we drove higher up in the mountains where we undertook squeezing (crawling through gaps in fallen rocks) mountain climbing and gorge scrambling (climbing and swimming in a freezing cold and breathtaking (quite literally) river and waterfall).

The second day we went higher up into the alps (at a higher altitude than any area in the UK), where we climbed over rocks, abseiling down a near-vertical cliff, and took a long hike around the mountains.

The third day we went white water rafting along the river next to our campsite, it was brilliant fun, with a professional photographer capturing our expressions of delight. After lunch, we proceeded further up river, to a more demanding track of river, where the only people to fall out of the raft were me and Alex Bowles, with Emma Godfrey getting chucked out at the end.



The fourth day we travelled to France for a day trip. Typical weather which meant rain. We climbed aboard a tram, which took us a fraction of the way up Mont Blanc. We disembarked the tram at the station and transferred into the tiniest cable car imaginable which took us further down the mountain to our destination 'La Mer De Glace' (The ice grotto), after exiting the cable car, we climbed down 400 or so steps, with only me and Alan Walton falling down most of them. The 'La Mer De Glace' is an ancient glacier, and I couldn't resist licking it.



The fifth day we travelled to a large lake where we undertook a vast range of activities. First I went kayaking and enjoyed jumping in the nice cold lake after working up a sweat. Secondly we built a raft and sailed/paddled into the lake only for the raft to be unknotted by swimmers. After lunch we had a race in the water and did gladiator style battles on overturned boats. Lastly we went canoeing, and this is the only point during the day that I got sunburnt.

On the last day, several of us walked up to the castle in the valley, and then visited the town and had ice creams. We then walked back to camp and started packing. After saying goodbye and thank you to the staff, we left the campsite on the coach.



The voyage back was a lot easier because we drove through France. On the ferry home I was glad to have some hot food, and a sleep in the children's play area. As soon as I got home, I had breakfast (again) and had a sleep on the sofa.

Franklin Bexhell – Explorer Scout, Phoenix Unit

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Items for October Tom Tom should be with tomtom@hastingscouts.org
By Monday 3rd October 2011 at the latest.

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Beaver News

I hope you all had a fantastic summer. There will be a Beaver Leader meeting at the White Hart Guestling on Thursday 22nd September at 7pm. Please could you let me know whether you can make it or not. There is also a Beaver 25th birthday party coming up in October, see flyer, an updated one will be sent out to all groups once venue has been confirmed.



Sarah Griffin ADC Beavers
gsj.griffin@bopenworld.com

Climbing and Abseiling Course 22/23rd Oct

Back in March, Jenny and I applied for the County Climbing and Abseiling course at Broadstone Warren. However, Jenny is now several months pregnant and by the end of October is not going to be in a position to climb or abseil. Is there anyone that would like to take her place? Cost is £75 or best offer:) I am happy to drive up both days or camp over. Details at

<http://www.broadstonewarren.org.uk/files/23751289233274CourseAdvertising2011.pdf>

Please let me know if you are interested
Stuart 07734 861796

Cub Paris 2012 Trip



Please see the attached letter. There are still spaces available. The final closing date is the 24th September, please ensure that any entries arrive by then. For those who have already applied, I will be in touch towards the end of the month with details of the first parents meeting.

Thanks
Stuart
ddc@stuartold.com

High Beech Slot Car Club

High Beech Slot Car Club (which is situated at the High Beech Hotel in St Leonards on Sea), organize slot car racing for groups young and old. If your Group is interested then please contact Martin Douglas at the address or phone numbers below.

Full details of the club can be found at
www.highbeechslotcars.co.uk

Martin Douglas
High Beech Slot Car Club (Chairman)
Telephone: 01424 212605
Mobile: 07977 569720
email: chairmanbsscc@me.com



22nd World Scout Jamboree 2011 Sweden

Full report in October from Graeme Monk



Our Group just before opening ceremony



The Opening Ceremony.



Some of our Group visiting a Swedish Camp



Some Swedish Scouts!