



# TOM TOM



## The Newsletter of Hastings, Rye & District Scouting April 2009

### Hastings Explorers Win Overland Hike!

Hastings Explorer Scouts have won the Explorer Competition in the prestigious Overland Hike, for the first time in the events 41 year history! The team are a joint enterprise from both Hydra and Phoenix ESU's



The overland hike is a competition hike for teams of 4 Scouts or Explorer Scouts across the South Downs and has been running since 1968. The hike is open to any teams of Scouts or Explorers, but until this year has only been open to Troops and Units from East and West Sussex. It took place last weekend, from Saturday morning to Sunday afternoon. The start and end points are kept secret until the week before, but are normally somewhere between Chichester and Eastbourne. This year the start was at East Dean (nr Chichester) and finished in Midhurst on the second day.

The Scouts and Explorers hike approximately 15 miles on the Saturday, and 10 Miles on the Sunday. Teams have to visit approximately 14 checkpoints along the route, at which they have an incident to undertake. The incident challenges this year included activities such as pioneering, dealing with a gunshot wound, tree recognition and cloud formations to name but a few. Points are awarded for the incidents as well as for hiking at a minimum speed of 3 miles per hour.

At the campsite teams are marked on their camp craft, menus, cooking and how tidy they leave their allocated site.

The winning Hastings team were (pictured), Jamie Richardson, Ben Rootes, Ben Cruttenden and Ben Harvey.

We are really proud of their achievement which, after four years with us, is a fitting way to end their time with Explorer Scouting, before they move on to other Scouting Challenges.

**Andy Bishop**

District Explorer Scout Commissioner (DESC).

[bish7774@orange.net](mailto:bish7774@orange.net)



### The Annual Census—Correction **Census**

The census figure's comparison last month was for a 2 year period by mistake. The increase from 2008 to 2009 is 91 - still a healthy increase

**Ann Brownhill District Secretary**

[secretary@hastingscouts.org](mailto:secretary@hastingscouts.org)

### News From The DC



March has been a busy month for all sections, the weather has improved and the lighter evenings make outdoor activities more appealing. Cubs have enjoyed a Sixers and Seconders weekend to Portsmouth, Scouts have had a District Air Rifle Competition, and a Patrol Leaders and Assistant Patrol Leaders weekend in London, sleeping on the Golden Hinde. Explorers took part in the County Monopoly Game played in London, and the County Overland Hike, which they won. Congratulations to them they have worked hard to achieve this. Leaders and Explorers also took part in the Hastings Half Marathon, some pulling an "Eiffel Tower" to raise money towards the District Cubs visit to Paris in May. Also lots of you manned drinks stations along the marathon route.

These events don't just happen, they take a lot of planning and hard work and I would like to say "Thank You" to everyone involved in organising them.

I hope you have all had details about this year's St George's Day Parade, and that you will encourage your Young People to attend. Don't forget your green hands!

I must remind you about the Drop in Training sessions; we only had two Adults attend the last session, even though there are lots of you doing your training at the moment, I know it is another evening that you have to go out, but training is a requirement of holding an Appointment. The dates for the next sessions are; Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April, Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May, Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June, Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July. These are all held at the 1<sup>st</sup> Hastings HQ, Oxford Road, St Leonards, 7.30 – 9.30pm. I hope to see you there.

Plus there is a Child Protection Refresher course on 13th May at 3rd Bexhill HQ.

**Judith Collins** [dc@hastingscouts.org](mailto:dc@hastingscouts.org) 852934

### Air Rifle Competition



First, I want to thank everyone who helped, especially Richard and Keith who worked hard all day to ensure the smooth, safe running of the competition. It was good to see so many parents and Leaders there supporting their teams.

Congratulations to all the competitors on turning up on time, and on your excellent behaviour and attitude towards the competition.

The standard of shooting was generally higher than in previous years, with some of you producing really outstanding results. Don't forget to check with your SL whether you have qualified for your Master at arms Badge.

Congratulations to Westfield A team on narrowly beating 24th Hastings. The full results are attached.

Roger Plumb.

### Congratulations to.....

**Mike Botten**, District Fellowship Chairman for receiving the Silver Acorn in this years St George's Day Awards.



## An Audience with The Mayor



On 25th March 2009 the Cubs from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Hastings (Holy Redeemer) visited the Town Hall for an audience with the Mayor. This evening was arranged for the Cubs to earn their Local Knowledge Activity Badge.

It proved to be a fabulous evening.

After each Cub and Leader signed the Town Hall visitors book we were shown into the Council Chamber where the Cubs were given a talk by the Mayor on the History of Mayors in Hastings & St Leonards, the Mayors role and how things have changed in Hastings since the Mayor moved to the town. The Cubs were given the opportunity to ask a lot of questions relating to all she had told them and about the Town Hall itself.



The Mayor had a further appointment to attend but allowed the Cubs to remain in the Council Chamber for drinks and biscuits – not a scrap was left on the trays – and also gave each of the Cubs a pencil and rubber.

Once finished at the Town Hall the Cubs went on an Old Town Walk, each armed with a local attractions map pointing out any features or areas of interest to a Leader. The usually quiet Old Town was not as quiet as a group of 30 Cubs passed by!!!

Congratulations to all of the Cubs for achieving their badge.

We would like to also take the opportunity to thank a truly wonderful lady for giving up her precious time to help these young people achieve their badges.

### **Trudi Adams**

Akela

3<sup>rd</sup> Hastings (Holy Redeemer) Cub Pack

Our thanks go to Trade Paints Ltd  
for printing and distributing this newsletter.

**Items for May 2009 Tom Tom should be with  
Gareth Moore**

[chairperson@hastingscouts.org](mailto:chairperson@hastingscouts.org)

By Sunday 3rd May at the latest.

## Beaver Bits



I have visited some of the colonies so far this year and am hoping to see the rest within the next few months, those that I have visited are doing really well with numbers on the increase.

I have booked the 1<sup>st</sup> Hastings Scout Hall for the 23<sup>rd</sup> April at 6.30pm for a Beaver Leader Meeting I hope that all the leaders can attend as this is a good time to swap ideas and thoughts, I hope that some of the Training Advisers can be there to sign off any modules that need signing off.



I have been very privileged to present the following Beavers with their Bronze Award, Ellie Bourne, (Rye), Billy Best (Westfield), Florence Fitch, Harry Filbane, Luke Willard and Jenna Smith (3<sup>rd</sup>) Nicholas Hutchins (9<sup>th</sup>) and Benjamin Davis (6<sup>th</sup>). Well done to them all and I hope that I can present many more this year.

I have booked the mini Golf again as it is so popular for the 9<sup>th</sup> May 5-7pm at £2.50 per head, and a district visit to Clambers on the 11<sup>th</sup> July 4-6pm at either £4.50 or £6.00 per head depending on food order, you should all have received an email with details but I will have booking forms on the 23<sup>rd</sup> April for you to collect.

I am also booking another district Sleepover and hopefully a trip to the Sealife centre, caves and castle Watch this space.

And finally on the 22<sup>nd</sup> April at 8.45 at Hasting United Football club I will be **Walking on Fire** to raise money for St Michaels Hospice, if you would like to sponsor me my Webb page is

<http://www.justgiving.com/clairedavis9>, or if you would like to come down and cheer me on that would be great.

**Claire Davis**

ADC Beavers [clairedavis@homecall.co.uk](mailto:clairedavis@homecall.co.uk)

## Obituary

### Eileen Bowler 10/02/1926 to 26/03/2009

We are sad to report the passing of Eileen Bowler, one of the mainstays of Northiam Scout Group for many a year.

She was appointed Assistant Cub Master of Northiam in January 1963 and served for many years as Cub Leader. She travelled to Canada and America as part of exchange trips in the 60's. After retiring as Akela she continued to work on the committee as a fund raiser, her cake stalls at various events are legendary. Monthly Bingo Sessions with her husband Ben for many years were the main source of revenue for our Group. She became our Treasurer some years ago and even though for the last 4 years due to poor health, she was still as active a member of our Group Executive as her health would allow. Her contribution to Keeping Scouting in Northiam for over 40 years cannot be described fully in a few lines. She will be sadly missed but the stories from the Cubs and Scouts she helped over the years will still be told.



## Cub News



### **Half Marathon**

As you may well read in the Paris Newsletter, 9 leaders pushed a model around the Hastings Half Marathon course to raise money for the Paris trip. Not only did we raise over £950, we also won the Bopeep Prize and are attending the award ceremony on the 17<sup>th</sup> April. Well done to all those that took part and also those who donated so generously.

### **Sixers and Seconders Weekend – Portsmouth**

On 7<sup>th</sup> March, 56 of us visited Portsmouth for the sixers and seconders weekend. We started early and caught our coach down to Portsmouth. We went straight to the Dockyards where we went aboard the HMS Victory and



Warrior. After lunch we took a trip on a boat around the harbour and saw many of the current war ships. After a marathon trip in the gift shop, we then took the short trip to the Scout Hall. At the hall, we played some games before dinner and then had a trading post activity before settling down to a film. On the Sunday we went swimming in the morning at the Pyramids centre and then went to Fort Nelson for lunch and a look around. Despite the weather turning we all had a fantastic time. Thank you to Ray who organised the weekend.



**Paris**  
About a month to go until we are off to Paris. Please make sure everyone going gets to see the attached Paris newsletter. Hope to see you on the 5<sup>th</sup> for the parents meeting and the 7<sup>th</sup> for the get to know you evening. Follow us from now on and whilst we are away on our twitter page – <http://twitter.com/ScoutParis2009>

### **Interpack Challenge Day – 11<sup>th</sup> July**

Details are attached for the Interpack Challenge Day.  
Please note – ALL ENTRIES MUST GO TO PETER CLARK DIRECTLY.

### **Air Activities Day**

The Air Activities Day which will now be held on 19<sup>th</sup> September – I am waiting for final confirmations and then details will follow.

### **District Cub Camp 2010**

Dates for your diary – our district cub camp 2010 will be held between the 28<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> May 2010 at Bushy Wood Campsite. Details to follow shortly – watch this space! sent out.

### **Stuart Old**

#### **ADC (Cub Scouts)**

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