



TOM TOM



The Newsletter of Hastings, Rye & District Scouting June 2009

EVERY CHILD HAS THE RIGHT TO AN ADVENTURE.
Bear Grylls: our new Chief Scout



Fellowship

A small but very happy band of fellowship camped at Rolvenden over the Bank Holiday weekend. As well as the campers we had members visiting daily and enjoying all that the farm has to offer. The children were able to assist in hand feeding some orphan lambs, we had a mini-tractor and trailer in which we not only collected wood and water, but gave the children rides around the site and there was a bouncy castle too. A small group of us went swimming on Saturday morning in Tenterden pool. Some went fishing and Brenda Crane managed to catch and land a carp of about 5lb with assistance from Jean Donaldson (well done!!). Others played volleyball, complete with the usual banter and ongoing discussions over the score!! We had a Barbecue on Saturday evening and we all went to the local hostelry for a lovely carvery on the Sunday. We are looking forward already to the next one!



Mike Botten

Hastings, Rye & District Scout Fellowship
michael.botten@btinternet.com
05601 753481



Gang Show - Auditions

Hopefully you will now all have the audition poster displayed in your scout halls advertising when the auditions are taking place.

If a member of your section cannot make the audition day (12th July) they must phone the Gang Show mobile 07593746381 BEFORE the 12th July, leaving their name/section & contact number. If you have a young person who will be in another section before November they must audition for the correct section.

See you on the 12th

Fiona Adams

07956 647737 fadaadaa@sky.com
gangshow@hastingscouts.org
www.hastingsgangshow.org.uk

Crazy Beavers Play Golf (or should that be Beavers Play Crazy Golf)

70 Beavers enjoyed the day at Planet Golf, White Rock Gardens, 2 hours of fun and meeting other Beavers from District, the weather this year was on our side!!! We all finished the evening with a drink and biscuits. The overall winners were Abigail Brown, 4th Hastings and Benjamin Davis 6th Hastings (Blacklands) (and no I was not keeping his scoring!!!!!!)



Pics available on

<http://www.phcgc.com/Beavers%20annual%20visit.html>

Claire Davis ADC Beaver Scouts
clairedavis@homecall.co.uk

1st Hastings walk to Pevensey

A group of scouts from 1st Hastings 'Hollington' Scout Group were challenged by their



GSL to walk from Hastings Castle to Pevensey Castle in a bid to raise

much needed funds for a weeks camping at Blacklands Farm in August. In spite of the weather being a mixture of rain, wind and sun and having to stop off and eat cream buns on the way, it was a fantastic day!

Well done to the scouts and leaders who took part. (I'm working on their next challenge!!)

Harti (GSL)

Items for July 2009 Tom Tom should be with Gareth Moore
chairperson@hastingscouts.org
By Friday 3rd July at the latest.

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The Scout & Guide Shop

The Scout & Guide Shop is at
8 Alexandra Parade, Park Avenue, Hastings.
Contact the Scout Shop at **429054**
Or **429206 (home)**
scoutshop@hastingscouts.org

Shop

The next Saturday opening will be on June 6th from 9.00am-11.00am.

From June 1st all current Scout stock (except badges) will be reduced by 20%. If anything has to be ordered in, there will not be a discount, and full payment will be required with the order. The shop's last opening night will be Monday July 20th.

Can we please ask all leaders to advise any parents visiting the shop that the shop staff did not make the decision to close the shop. It was made by the District Committee for financial reasons. In recent weeks the staff have been subject to unpleasant comments such as "What are we supposed to do now", "Where will we get uniform from", and have received strong abuse when they are told that when ordering by mail order postage charges will be incurred. This has been from both Leaders and parents. It is going to be an unsettling time in the next few weeks and the staff do not deserve to be treated in this way. Please respect their feelings.

Following are places to buy uniform online.....

This is the official Scout Shop.

<http://www.scoutshops.com/acatalog/scouting-uniform.htm>

The following also provide official uniforms.

<http://www.scout-and-guide-shop.co.uk/scouts.html>

<http://www.onestopscouting.co.uk>

<http://www.walkalotonline.co.uk>

<http://www.scoutguidestore.co.uk>

1st Northiam get to 100!

1st Northiam Scout Group are celebrating our Centenary this year - albeit in a modest way.

The first fundraiser we had last week raised over £368 profit with a Curry Night in our HQ, the entertainment was provided by a troupe of Belly Dancers!!!! from the Hastings Area. HQ was decorated with lights, elephants!! sari's candles etc. and looked only moderately like a Group HQ.

Possibility of an Italian Night later in the year and our "Big Breakfast" in the Autumn.

Jackie Broad GSL 1st Northiam



AGM 01-07-09

AGM

Our AGM is on Wednesday 1st July at 8pm at the VENU-U in George Street. We have a guest speaker on the night and a bar is available. See you there!

Brede Scouts On Air!

You may well have seen the report about 1st Brede Scout Group in the local press last month:

"Brede Scout Group gained its first Licenced Amateur Radio operators when four Scouts and their Scout Leader passed their Amateur Radio Foundation Licence Exam last week.



The five of them did a practical and theoretical course with Brede Steam Amateur Radio Society (BSARS) during the Easter school holidays, following which, after a couple of weeks' revision, they took the exam at Brede Scout

Hut. For the Scouts, it was a terrific achievement to master not only radio transmission techniques but also to understand the electronics, transmitter and receiver construction, antenna theory, solar astronomy and even learn basic Morse code required for the qualification.

Their success means that the Radio Station, GB1FBS can now be run by Scout Operators for Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) this year."

Little did we know or suspect that this story would go around the world on Amateur Radio

Websites once it got picked up. My shock at seeing it on a website for the 'Rocky Mountain Radio Group' in Colorado was only matched by my surprise when a Dutch Airline Pilot I talked to on the radio said that he had seen it on the American eham net! For better or for worse we have inadvertently sent the name of 'Brede Scouts' around the globe!

The above serves, I suppose, to illustrate just what a great achievement it was for the four Scouts who incidentally, all gain the Communicator Badge automatically for being licenced hams and none of it would have been possible without Steve Stewart and the terrific team from Brede Steam Amateur Radio Club who did an amazing job training us. My sincere thanks to them all.
M6FBS (Scout Leader)!



Cub Information

Cubbly Bug Ball 12th - 14th June

Hi all - not long to the Cubbly Bug Ball - I hope it goes really well - sorry I am unable to be there. Judith has the food all under control and the coaches are sorted. Have a great time - Stuart.

Cub Football

Congratulations to the 1st Westfield Cub Pack for winning the Cub Football tournament for 2009. They narrowly pipped the 4th Hastings on a thrilling penalty shootout.

Interpack Challenge

Please find attached the details again of the Interpack Challenge. The closing date is the 15th June - please ensure that you get your entries to Pete Clark by this date.

Stuart Old ADC Cubs cubs@stuartold.com

PARIS TRIP ARTICLE ON PAGE 3



cubs

Les Cubs sont allés voir Mickey Mouse à Paris



On the 2nd May 61 cubs and 19 adults set off very early (5.30am) from Falaise Road to catch the Eurostar. Mums & Dads were there to wave us off and as we embarked on our journey. On arrival at the Eurostar Terminal we checked in and went through the lengthy passport and baggage checks. No sooner were the cubs through passport control we collected back the passports to keep them safe – by this stage only two photos had fallen out. Whilst on the platform we met a UK Commissioner who was also travelling to Paris so had to be on our best behaviour – luckily for him he was in a different carriage to us.

No sooner had we all sat down the breakfasts were eaten – and in some cases the packed lunches as well. We arrived exactly on time in Paris and negotiated the very complicated Paris Nord metro to make our way to the Youth Hostel. Trying to buy 80 train tickets with our limited French involved complicated sign language and eventually the assistance of a cub to demonstrate a child for us. On our arrival at the Hostel those of us with any lunch left ate it and then we left our bags and caught the tram to the Aqua Boulevard Swimming Centre. This is the largest swimming complex in Europe with 11 slides, rope swing, water ski-ing simulator, and wave machine (and Jacuzzis for the leaders). It was absolutely fantastic and some of the slides were too scary for the adults although most of the cubs seemed fearless. Of course we knew exactly where all the cubs were at all times and it only took us 30 minutes to round them all up to get out at the end of the afternoon.



Le Tour Eiffel - We Made It!

We then set off on our way to the Eiffel Tower – unfortunately the metro station was unmanned and only sold individual tickets from machines. Stuart therefore had the inspirational idea of walking as it was only two stops up the line. We walked along parts of the Seine that nobody had ever seen before and would probably not have missed.



Le MacDonalds

After an hours fast paced walk the Eiffel Tower still seemed a fair distance away though Clive repeatedly assured us it was only 5 minutes away. Tired and exhausted we arrived at the base of the Eiffel Tower and made the doughnut sellers day when we bought all the stock he had left to keep energy levels up.

We went up in the lift to the second floor of the tower and looked out at the amazing views over Paris. We then continued our way to the top of the tower where the views were even more magnificent. On returning to the ground the leaders had an ad hoc competition to see how many Eiffel Tower keyrings they could buy for a Euro from the touts. I think the record was six. Next stop Le MacDonalds where we took over the whole top floor and spent over 400 euros. We then went back to the hostel and slept very well.



Stuart in Disguise?

On Sunday we woke early and went down for a continental breakfast. Our lunches were prepared and given out before we set off for Eurodisney. After another struggle buying tickets at the train station we were able to catch our train directly to the parks. Once we arrived we split up into small groups and explored the rides and attractions. There were so many rides to choose from we could not do them all, but we tried our hardest. Some more adventurous groups went on Space Mountain and the Aerosmith ride – both of which turned upside down. Those not so thrill seeking watched an excellent car stunt show and went behind the scenes of a movie set. The queues did not seem overly long and we managed to pack a lot into to day. We even saw Mickey Mouse and friends along the way. A fantastic day was had by all. Before heading home we stopped at a couple of gift shops where the cubs (and some of the leaders) bought reminders of the day. Amazingly no-one got lost and we all headed back together to the hostel. On our return we were shattered and fell asleep very quickly except for a few of the leaders who had to have a debrief in the café area.

On Monday we woke again to a Continental breakfast and decided we had all walked enough so after packing and clearing our rooms went to the park. The weather was fantastic and we played some games and had lunch. We then started home once again making our way through passport control which the French seemed to make much more complicated. We finally got through and met some other people we knew from Hastings before coming home. Most of the parents were there waiting for us on our return and we were finally able to relax.

A huge thank you must go out to all the adults involved for all their efforts during the weekend. We must also thank the Lions Club who gave us a last minute donation which ensured that the trip ran without making a loss and also to Dama International for their donation along with all the other donations and fundraising that we did.

Stuart Old
ADC (Cub Scouts)
Hastings, Rye & District Scouts
cubs@stuartold.com

Tel: 07734 861796



Lunch in the Park

News From The DC



Many Groups camped during the half term break, and despite the weather had a good time. There were some interesting programmes. I particularly liked the 3rd Hastings Scouts idea of celebrating the four seasons with Easter, A Summer beach party, Halloween, and Christmas throughout the camp.

Well done to Sarah and Gary Griffin of the 18th Hastings for gaining their Wood Badges. 7 packs from our District are going to this month's County Cubbly Bug Ball camp at Broadstone Warren; let's hope the weather stays dry.

Last month's Drop in Training evening had a record attendance, well done to everyone that went along. The next training evening is on Thursday 2nd July at the 1st Hastings HQ, Oxford Road.

Congratulations to Jenny and Stuart of the 6th Hastings on your recent Marriage, I hope you have a long and happy life together.

I look forward to seeing you at our District AGM on Wednesday 1st July.

Judith Collins dc@hastingscouts.org 852934

Hastings Gun Carriage Tournament

The 4th Hastings Gun-Carriage Tournament will be held on Saturday 26th September, 10am to 4pm, on the Oval, Bohemia Road. Teams (of six) are again invited from Explorers, Scouts and Cubs between the ages 7 to 18 years to compete in this fun event. Further details and entry packs can be obtained by emailing hqcg@tesco.net or telephoning 852513. Practice sessions can be arranged on group nights after the summer break by prior booking.



Many thanks

David Allen

Hastings Gun-Carriage Group

Our New Chief Scout Article from Sky News

Intrepid TV adventurer Bear Grylls has been named the UK's youngest ever Chief Scout.

The 34-year-old, who presents programmes such as Man Vs Wild and Escape to the Legion, will hold the voluntary position for five years.

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He told Sky News that being a scout when he was a young man helped him learn the basic skills he uses in his programmes.

"The TV side of what I do is an extreme version of what I learned in scouting," he said.

"If you want to learn what I do on the show, the basics for me were learnt in scouting.

"I then developed them with my time in the special forces."

Grylls, who spent three years in the SAS, was also the youngest Briton to climb Mount Everest when he was just 23.

He takes over as Chief Scout from former Blue Peter presenter Peter Duncan.

The daredevil said he wants to encourage more adults to become scout leaders, so the thousands of young people on waiting lists can join the movement.

"Scouting is enjoying a massive surge of enthusiasm in this country with more kids wanting to join than ever before," he explained.

"My vision is to get more adults involved to become leaders to get the 33,000 kids off the waiting list."

Grylls, from Ramsbury near Malborough, was appointed by The Council of the Scout Movement at a special meeting in London.

He will attend a handover ceremony with Peter Duncan later in the year.