



SEVENOAKS SCOUTING

NEWSLINK

July 2006

It's GO! GO! GO!

Sevenoaks Get Busy
Dudley Gets MBE
Scouts Go Karting
Ide Hill Go Recruiting
Leaders Go Training
Cubs Go To Gilwell
3rd Get Their Second Troop
Fellowship Go Steaming up the Medway
Cubs and Scouts Go Camping

Massive Congratulations to Dudley Barrow of 16th Ide Hill Group on getting honoured with an MBE. Dudley does so much for the community of Ide Hill, Scouting in general and can still turn his hand to running a cub pack meeting when needed. Having completed more than 60 years in Scouting he can still come up with a new game teach the kids to sing and generally keep control. Surely there could be no other person more deserving of this honour than our Dudley. Good on yer mate!

Soapbox Derby

The Scout Section put their skills into building karts over the last few weeks and came together to race them downhill at Valance School. With an agreed set of specifications and safety rules the troops designed and built the carts from bits and pieces of bikes, prams and the contents of parents sheds. The carts had steering controls and elaborate braking systems that any Formula One Team would be proud of. All edges had to be smooth and many were padded. Some carts even had internal timing systems to keep the driver up to date with proceedings.

And so the day of the races. Wearing some kind of crash hat the scouts took it in turn to race down the hill against the clock. This is not for the faint hearted. Although well designed and built the steering was tricky and suspension non existent but all got through it and had a great day

The following report and pictures was sent in by Ian Kilner

Soapbox Derby –Valence School

On the 17th June boys and girls from 17th 16th 12th 4th Sevenoaks Scout Troops came together for a Soap Box Derby, but only the brave had the courage to take on the dare devil course of Valence School drive. But it did not start there

Just after Christmas 17th Westerham challenged 12th Edenbridge to a soapbox race. This was to big for just our two troops so together we challenged the rest of the District to design build and race one or two machines capable of holding together on a down hill course yet to be found.



The challenge went out.

The biggest problem for everyone was the wheels and axles; the old pram wheels are just not the same in 2006 as they were in the 1960/70's

On the day 17th arrived with one soap box and a team of stunt drivers, all the straw bails (safety first), tea stall and arranged for the two toilets to arrive and disappear.

The 12th arrived with two soapboxes one made by the troop and one brave dad, one made by two boys, who bravely drove them, and some shade and cones.

The 4th arrived with one soap box, which seemed to be sponsored by Reno F1 team, crew and lots of safety equipment

The 16th arrived with two soapboxes, a supper team of young lady dare devils and crew



The first up 16th half way down they rolled it.
Then the 4th, half way down they rolled it.
Next up 12th and he made it all the way down - but then rolled it.
Now the 17th halfway they rolled
Next up 12th will he make it? Yeeees! All the way and no roll!
Better this time the 17th get three quarters of the way and then roll

Quick safety team meeting. Shorten the course? Yes!



Now here we go again.

16th, rolled at the end, but that was fast.

4th, held it to the end and another spill, but made a good time

12th, crossed the line and rolled again was it fast enough?

17th, cross the line on two wheels but stayed up right.

12th, this one hasn't gone over yet and again a full run.

17th, a full run without any problems and good time.



One more run each and a pattern was emerging. All the times were fast and it was very close.

Timed runs finished it was time for fun runs and more spills



One brave leader from the 12th using his weight made a good run but was bettered by Robin from the 16th who excepted a challenge to run more than the full course. From top to bottom he put in a good show and it was fast.

All soap boxes were well built and stayed together and most of the wheels stayed on

The lady daredevils of the 16th won the best time in both age groups. Well-done girls.

The best-built soapbox was won by 12th the only one not to roll all day and was made by the two boys who raced it. Well done to them

Ian Killner 12th Edenbridge

Oxford Scouts Camp at Downe

With Graham White in attendance Eddie Newton and Garry Norris took their scouts to Downe Camp Site to validate their permits. The scouts hiked to Keston Lakes, did pioneering in the form of a bridge without using ropes and plenty of cooking. Blessed with a dry weekend the camp went extremely well.



Recruitment Day at the 16th.

With many young people eager to join Scouting in the Ide Hill area the Group decided to put on an evening display aimed at recruiting new leaders. Primarily aimed at opening a beaver colony but also looking for cub leaders the group circulated parents at local schools and also residents of the village.

Members from the County Team as well as other leaders within our District turned up to help on the evening.

With the idea of putting on displays of what Scouting did in all sections Beavers were called in from the 3rd with cubs and Scouts from the 16th doing scouting things and handing out Twists. For two hours the hall was filled with hustle and bustle.

With so much going on it was impossible to see if the recruitment side of things was getting any attention but of course it was and at the end of the evening enough people came forward to push forward the opening of a colony. It is too early to know the final outcome of this but everyone in the District will wish the 16th well and hope to see yet another group expanding within the District.



Whilst on the subject of expanding..

The 3rd get a second troop. Taking the name of the dormant troop Lambarde (which has not been in operation for at least 20 years) the new troop started meeting at the beginning of June . With Scout Leader Scott Pullen and assistants James Finley and John Ward the troop started with 10 scouts and have since recruited a further 3. The Lambarde Troop meet on a Friday evening from 7 to 9 and are happy to take on young people from groups that have not got a troop at this moment. Scott and his team are all keen to get out there and do Scouting, so far they have tackled backwards cooking first aid and hiking.



Some of the New Lambarde Troop on investiture night.

Cubs have been busy this month

Cubs from the 1st Braeside , 3rd Amherst, 3rd Stanhope and 17th Westerham went to Thriftwood camp Site in Essex for an action packed weekend of fun and activity



And.....

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Cubs from all over the District went to the Fun Day at Gilwell on one of the hottest days of the summer so far. Leaders reported there was loads to do but also long que's This however didn't deter the cubs and they busily went about getting on with whatever they could. Thanks to Andrew Taylor for the photo's

Ariel
Runway

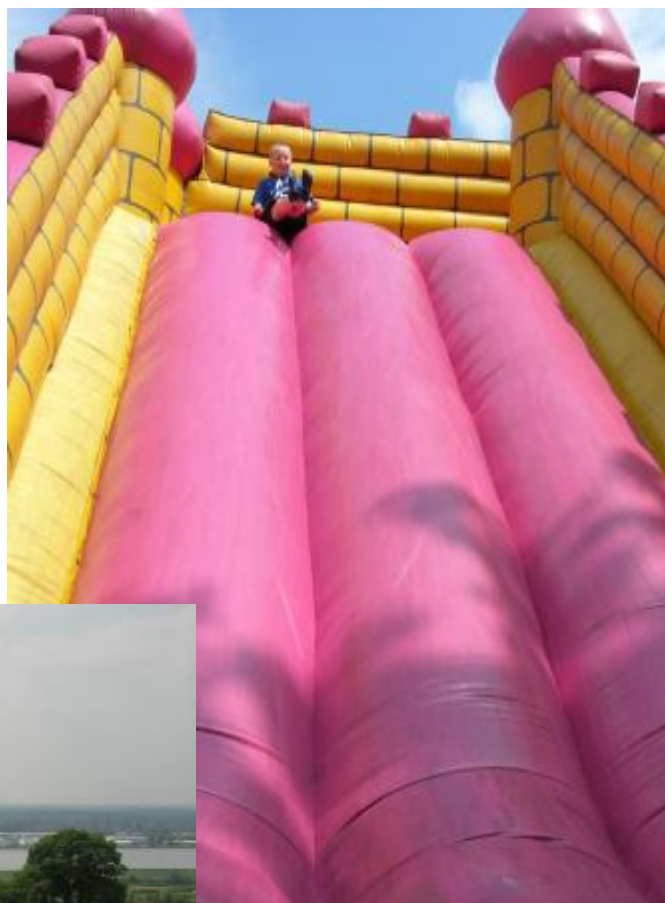
*If you
are
brave
enough!*



Bring on the injun's

*It a'int
'alf high
Mum*

Grass
Sledging
*Look out
for that
lake*



They are at it AGAIN!

Yes, the District Fellowship had another day off from Scouting and took themselves to Rochester for a trip on the “Kingswear Castle”.



This paddle steamer has twice been consigned to the scrap yard and then rescued. Today she is beautifully restored with polished brass and varnished woodwork. Even the working steam engines look as though they have just left the factory instead of having been in service since 1904. The boat itself, however, is younger, having been built in 1924.

Organised by Dave Hitchings, the Fellowship had a most pleasant afternoon, sailing down to the Thames, with a running commentary on the history of the river frontage and ex Navy Dockyards.

Making the most of the sunshine, the Fellowship let someone else do the work and were served afternoon tea, finishing with chocolate éclairs!

WHY NOT JOIN THE FELLOWSHIP?

We enjoy an active social side as well as supporting or organising District activities and events, and helping Scouting in many ways. For example, this month we are helping Young People with Special Needs at “Reach”, for Kent County; Swim Badge testing for Sevenoaks Beavers; maintaining the District HQ; and organising the seating and refreshments for the District AGM. Help, as much or as little as you can give is always welcome, as you would be.



Contact our Secretary, Pat Crawley on 01732 761449 or kevin@crawleyk.freeseve.co.uk

The New Kent Scarf



The new Kent Scout embroidered red neckerchief can be worn by everyone in the County for all sorts of occasions – representing and helping at County events, Group trips and whenever you feel like a change!

It would appear they are popular.

Ask at the Scout Shop or directly through County Office

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR FOR KENT SCOUTS

From: Eric Watts, County Chairman
19 June 2006

As colleagues are aware Marion Isaacs retires as Office Manager on June 30 2006, although her last working day in the County Office was 16 June 2006. Therefore, the office will only be managed by one person, Lesley Simmons, for the next six weeks. The County Office will be closed on Wednesdays. The opening hours on the remaining four days will be 9.30am to 4.00pm. Jane Town, Beccy Martin, Martin Hampstead and I will visit the office on a weekly basis to assist with the management and administration. Your understanding and patience will be appreciated, as the level of support will be reduced.

A successful evening was held last week to celebrate and thank Marion for her valuable contribution to the work of the County Office and scouting support across Kent.

A new post has been established to manage the County Office, with an emphasis on enhanced information and communication technology to support County Officers and colleagues across Kent. The hours for the post have been reduced to ensure budget targets are met. The post has been advertised in Kent on Sunday, interviews held and an appointment is expected to be announced later this week. Please note Lesley continues in her role as an Accounts and Administrative Assistant.

Marion continues as County Secretary (elected post) until the Annual Meeting of the Kent County Scout Council in October 2006. Marion has stated she will not stand for re-election and the search for a County Secretary starts immediately. If any person is interested please contact me as soon as possible for an informal discussion.

Thank you and best wishes

I hope you will forgive this somewhat impersonal way of getting in touch but I wanted to reach as many as possible throughout the County and decided this was the best way!

I just want to say a huge thank you to everyone who contributed to my retirement gifts and to those of you who came to my surprise party on Wednesday. It really was a surprise and I was delighted although not a little tearful to see so many familiar faces.

For those of you who don't know, my gift was a one of BP's prints of the African elephant "Warden of the Forest" which I have admired for a long time. Then, in addition to beautiful bouquet, I was absolutely overwhelmed to receive a cheque for £650 which will go a long way to fulfilling my wish to visit Rome. Thank you all so much.

I have spent almost a third of my life working for County, first as Admin Assistant and latterly as Office Manager, and I would like to thank everyone throughout the County for their friendship and courtesy which have made my job a pleasure. I have enjoyed every working day. I hope my successor, when appointed, will find the same fulfillment.

No doubt I will see some of you at the County AGM on October 7th and will probably bump into others at events during 2007 when I am with my Cub Scout Pack.

Once again, many, many, thanks to all of you

Marion Isaacs

Deadline for next Newslink July 29th

csmears@hotmail.com or Rosepyne@aol.com

Pioneering at Hamlet Wood



June and Trevor Johnson send in these picture from a recent pioneering course that they catered on Eric Barrow from 12th Sevenoaks went along with the County Patrol to take part.

News Of The Jamboree

I've just returned from Jamboree Contingent Leader training weekend with the UK Contingent Support Team.

The main point we have been asked to relay back to our Districts/Counties from the weekend is that IST places will be closing at the **beginning of July 2006** (although the website says 14th July 2006).

They expect to have between 1000 and 2000 UK IST applied with deposits paid by this date (the number of UK IST will essentially be however many are paid up and registered by the end of June). If it is less than the lower limit then they will reopen – but the rest of the World will also be competing for these places.

At present there are only 3 IST confirmed from Kent.

If you know of anybody who is interested/thinking about applying for IST please pass this message on to them as they only have a few weeks left to apply. Thanks, Simon Corrigan

Copies of the Sevenoaks District Scout Council's Annual Report, 2005-2006, have already been issued throughout the District.

Copies of the 'Accounts For The Year Ending 28th February 2006' is now issued to accompany that report and has been circulated via Email where possible and snail mail where not.

If you need copies of either please contact Carol Hills

Glenn Lester DC of Tunbridge Wells has asked me to include this to see if anyone can help trace

Mark Keiran

Please reply to lesterbuild@aol.com

Vote For BP

Explorers - please vote

Leaders - can you forward this to your beavers/cubs/scouts please vote for Google to Recognise BP
As you may know, Google change their logo for special moments and events. Olympic rings during the Games, Christmas decorations for Christmas, Cucumbers on World Vegetable Day..

A petition was drafted to have Google in Scouting style on 22 February.

This date is Baden-Powell Day, or International Thinking Day because it is the Birthday of both Lord and Lady BP. Now all we need to do is get X people to sign the petition. Not so hard as there are many millions of Scouts and Scouters worldwide. We just need to do it.

To cut a long story short: Click on the link and sign the petition.

<http://www.petitiononline.com/glogobp/petition.html>

Downe camp site will be holding an International camp during 2008 (Camp Downe)

They are looking for a Sub Camp Leader + Team members and have invited Kent Scouts to fulfil this position.

We are therefore looking for any one who would be interested in taking on this role(s). It may also be an opportunity for a District to develop their Leaders (put in the whole team)?

If you would be interested or know anyone who would be interested, please let me know as we need to commit our interest to this opportunity in the very near future.

Best regards Andy Trill

As you may be aware the upper limit for applications to Awards For All was raised to £10,000 from April - I have just received a newsletter that gave me the following information.

"Good news for applicants: there has not been a surge of new applications since the £10,000 maximum was introduced in March, so success rates are still extraordinarily high and it is seldom necessary for Awards for All to apply their published regional priorities. There is usually enough money to go round for everyone. But we still do hear of applications being rejected because they ask for money for ongoing running costs such as salaries or rent. As the form says, applications must be for specific activities"

Log onto www.awardsforall.org.uk for more information - it looks like it is well worth applying!

Beccy Martin
County Projects Adviser