

Tales from the Scout Hut

We can't recall ever doing an Annual churchyard tidy up at St Mary's in the rain....and this year was no exception – it was a beautiful evening. Along with friends from the PCC and church congregation, we once again, as in so many past years, worked really hard together at cutting back, pruning, weeding, clearing and sweeping. A great many bags of garden waste were generated, which miraculously disappeared in the van of the scout parents at the end of the evening, huge thanks to them. Thanks also to the ladies who supplied us with hot dogs and drinks, while Liam's birthday always falls near tidy-up day so we had cakes to celebrate (such a hardship!) Thanks to everyone who came along on the evening and helped out.

This is the time of year when all sections really make the most of the light evenings and improved weather by getting out and about as much as they can. The Beavers have had a trip to Pets at Home for their Animal Care Badge and had games at Elgar's Field. The Cubs enjoyed a great evening of cycling at Betteshanger Country Park. They have also been undertaking their Environmental Conservation Badge. This has involved working on the back garden at the hut, and also going around the village asking villagers to take part in their conservation questionnaire – thank you to everyone who participated in this and gave up their time. For the first time, they have also held a Monopoly Run in Sandwich.

At Scouts, the end of term means it's time for the annual Goose Cup Challenge (the trophy being a decoy Goose! – long story). Part One of the challenge was a trip to Minnis Bay when each patrol had an hour to fish in the tidal pool. The Patrol with the most variety of sea creatures wins Part 1 (all creatures were released unharmed back into the sea). As in previous years a variety of creatures including crabs, starfish and a jelly fish were found! Part Two for the second year running, was the Monopoly Run in Sandwich where each patrol must pit their wits against a Sandwich themed monopoly board – this year with an historical theme! This year, after a closely fought challenge, the Goose Cup was won by Cobra Patrol.

The Explorers have had a photo scavenger hunt in Sandwich and had a go at air rifle shooting with other District Explorer groups. Together with the Scouts, and leaders from both groups, they also helped set up Staple Country Fayre in June and helped out during the Fayre. The group takes part in this in return for a donation to the group.

The countdown is now on for the Scout and Explorer contingent going to the Kent International Jamboree at Detling at the end of July. We've received instructions for a Pirate Day, and a Top Secret Mission, the food is ordered, the tents sorted and excitement is mounting. Our Honduran themed gateway for our pitch is completed and we are very proud of it. We would like to say a huge thank you to the Parish Council who gave us a donation to purchase a barbecue which we'll taking with us to help with the catering during the even – we're all looking forward to enjoying South American themed barbecues during the week. We'll let you know how it all went in the October WCN.

