

Tales from the Scout Hut

By the time you receive this, another year of Scouting will have come to an end and the Leaders will be taking a well earned break before turning their thoughts to the autumn. However, at the time of writing, there are still a few weeks of action packed fun to go and so far, we have been blessed with gorgeous summer weather.

The Beaver section have had their annual walk around Sandwich which finished with chips on the Quay. They have also been to Betteshanger Country park, held an evening of sports and finished the term with a picnic.

At Cubs they have completed their Cyclist badge. This involved an evening of cycling at Betteshanger Country Park and another learning about bike maintenance which included safety on the road, how to fit a cycling helmet properly and how to repair a puncture. They also had an evening of rock pooling at St Margaret's Bay. Not too many got wet!

The Scouts and Explorers spent a Saturday learning to kayak at Bewl Water with members of the County Paddle Sports Team. It was a long day for the young people, leaving Wingham at 7.30am for a 9am start! However, they all did really well and all achieved their Paddle Sports Stage 1 and Time on the Water badges, while two of the Explorer Scouts also completed the British Canoe Association 1 star award. Since then, the Scouts have finished the year with the annual Goose Cup Challenge in two parts. Part 1 at the hut included long distance painting, blindfold biscuit decorating, the longest piece of paper and pop up tent challenge. Part 2 was a hike to Sandwich Bay and beach challenges at the bay. (at the time of writing these haven't yet happened so will report on who won the decoy goose in the autumn).

As previously mentioned, the Explorer section has chosen to support the Alzheimer Society this year and they had a visit from a volunteer from the Alzheimer Society to learn more about Dementia. This was an interesting and thought provoking evening with several tasks to be undertaken. We were asked to write the instructions to make a cup of tea – it was interesting that us leaders all completed between 6 and 8 step instructions, but the young people went much further with multiple instructions and that really shed a light on how complicated even the simplest of things can be. Another task showed how differently we all react to the same thing. At the end we were all presented with badges that designated us Dementia Friends. For their last meeting before the summer holidays the Explorers will be undertaking their sponsored cycle ride at Betteshanger Country Park in aid of The Alzheimer Society (again at the time of writing this has yet to be held so there will be an update on this in the autumn). We won't close the sponsor money down until the autumn term, so if you wish to support our young people, please get in touch winghamscouts@gmail.com

Finally, in the middle of July, the Scout Group was pleased to take part in the annual churchyard tidy up at St Mary's. This has become an annual fixture in the scouting calendar and the young people have a great time pulling down ivy, cleaning out the gullies and helping to bag up the waste, and of course they always enjoy the hotdogs supplied by St Mary's Church!

Sadly, we have to report that our beloved Explorer Leader Steve (Baldrick), passed away in June after a short but very brave battle with cancer and has now 'Gone Home'. A generous, kind and very giving person, he had an enormous impact on our group and he will be hugely missed by us all.

Matthew and I would like to thank all our volunteers – leaders and committee members - who have worked so hard over the past year to provide all four sections with such diverse and exciting programmes and enable the young people to achieve so much. You are all amazing. We hope all the readers of WCN enjoy the rest of the summer and we'll see you back here in the autumn!