

Tales from the Scout Hut

We really enjoyed taking part in the Scarecrow Weekend in May. Our creations went slightly left-field when our Hogwarts grand hall banquet turned into a Quidditch match instead! However, with the amount of Scarecrow heads that all four sections managed to create we were able to create two entire Quidditch Teams plus spectators and a few specials which included Dumbledore, a very sinister Voldemort and Professor Flitwick. Many thanks to Karl and Yolanda at the Post Office for allowing us to store our scarecrows overnight in their garage so that we didn't have to keep taking them back to the hut, and to Lyn and her team for making this fantastic event possible.

At this time of year there are quite a few district competitions for all the groups to get involved in. We had two teams from the Scout Troop took part in the District Shooting Competition at the Duke of York's School over the May Bank Holiday weekend. The team of Harrison, Max and Christopher won the competition – a huge well done to them and to both teams for taking part.

All the sections have been making the most of the improved weather and lighter evenings. The Scouts and Explorers have joined forces to get covered in paint while creating the gateway and making tie dye t-shirts for the Jamboree. Final preparations are now underway for the Jamboree which starts at the end of July. We will be joining Scouting and Guiding Groups from around the UK and the world for the week camp so this will be a truly international experience.

Scouts have also been to Betteshanger Woods to make trebuchets which they then used to fire water bombs from! As you can imagine, some Scouts got quite wet! Cubs have also been to Betteshanger to do firelighting. At Beavers they had a walk around Sandwich followed by fish and chips and will soon be enjoying their annual games and picnic at Elgar's Field.

At the beginning of June, it was Volunteers Week. Along with many other organisations throughout the country, the Scout Association relies on volunteers. Wingham Scout Group is no exception and many people in many different roles over many years have ensured that Scouting has continued in the village. The first Scout Master in Wingham was Ernest Frederick Smart who received his warrant in 1914. There is no record that a group started at this point and it is likely that Frederick went off to the First World War soon after. However, the Scout Group was on parade in 1921 during the dedication of the War Memorial in the Burial Ground in 1921 and by then the group was known as 1st Wingham (Lady Desboro's Own). So, there has been a Scout Group in Wingham, on and off, since 1921 – that is nearly a century of volunteering and we thank all those volunteers, past and present, for all they have given to the group.