

Tales from the Scout Hut

Last month we didn't have chance to give you the very important results of the Scouts 9th Annual inter-patrol completion. The Goose Cup Challenge was won again by the Panthers Patrol, being victorious over two weeks of challenges including distance painting, getting dressed in a onesie inside a pop up tent, making sand sculptures and more besides.

Back to the present.....At Beavers they have been very busy Beavers, as usual! Having completed their Cyclist badge at the Rec, they have been icing biscuits, making insect boxes and decorating t-shirts. In the middle of the month they went on a County outing to Wingham Wildlife Park for a Wild Beavers Day Out! They had a great time seeing all the amazing animals having their faces painted along with lots of other Beavers from around Kent. A week later they gathered with other Beaver colonies from around the District for campfire at the district campsite at Betteshanger where they had fun with campfire songs like 'Mighty, Mighty Beavers!' Things will be changing in the Colony from January 2019 when Beavers will be moving to meet on Wednesdays only. The section is still very popular, but this change is necessary as we no longer have enough leaders to enable the running of two sessions. There will also be a limit of 20 in total and so to manage numbers a waiting list is now in operation.

The Cubs have been working very hard in the back garden of the hut and amongst other things have laid a new path to the campfire and cleared many of the nettles. After working so hard and with the back garden looking so much better, the Cubs had a campfire to celebrate their amazing hard work and think about what's next! What was actually next was some traditional pioneering and good-old knot work. This is still an essential part of scouting and we like to start them young.

It's mainly been a lovely dry autumn so far, except for the weekend of the Expedition challenge undertaken by the Scout Patrol Leaders and Assistant Patrol Leaders at the end of September when it rained for over 24 hours! With high winds also forecast, the Scouts spent the night in shelter rather than camping out. However, despite the weather conditions, they undertook two hikes to complete their Expedition Challenge.

The rest of the Scouts plus the Explorers, also undertook hikes around Staple, Ash and Wingham, also in horrible weather on the Saturday. The Scouts learned some map reading skills, assisted by the Explorers who were keen to help instruct. They also had an egg in each patrol which they had to get safely back to the Scout hut (and they did achieve that!) and a few other activities to carry out on the way – get all the group off the floor, make a stretcher and put a leader into the recovery position! Many thanks to Layham Nursery who allowed one of the groups to shelter from the rain at lunchtime.

A number of Scouts also took part in the District Operation St George competition, this year held at Eastry at the end of September. The annual competition involves making their way around various bases throughout the village, completing the tasks at each base. Although they didn't win, they all had a fantastic time.

At the end of October, the Scouts and Explorers had a visit to the Royal Engineers Museum at Chatham where they took part in a workshop learning about a local Victoria Cross hero from the First World War and had a go at making their own replica medals. Then we went onto to Chatham Naval Memorial to pay our respects to the Wingham men remembered there, laying a poppy cross in Remembrance, with a final stop at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission section at Gillingham Woodlands Cemetery. This marked the start of the Remembrance period for the troop and we will be out and about in November on our poppy rounds as well as taking part in the Armistice Service on 11th November.

We will be holding our AGM at the end of October. We currently need a Secretary for the group. If you have a few hours to spare each month and can help, please email winghamscouts@gmail.com

