Tales from the Scout Hut

During the Remembrance period, members of the group were out and about in the village poppy selling on behalf of the Royal British Legion. On Remembrance Sunday, which this year fell poignantly on the Centenary of the Armistice of the First World War, the group was proud to take part in the parade through the village and the service at St Marys Church. Despite the rain that fell, Wingham turned out in great numbers for the parade and service to the extent that it was standing room only in the church. It was poignant that in this Centenary year, Adrian, the great nephew of Private Fagg, was able to be at the service to talk movingly about his relative who left Wingham to fight in WW1 and did not return and is one of the 26 names on our War Memorial. At the end of the service, one of the Beaver Scouts helped to light a candle for peace and we reflected on the conflicts of the past and hopes for the future. We also had a Beaver, Ewan, and a Scout, Samuel, represent the group at the Remembrance service at St James in Staple. They took part in the service and laid a wreath on behalf of the group.

Back at the hut, the Beavers recently took to the skies to undertake their space badge! Pioneering and problem solving followed. During December they have lots of Christmas craft activities to take them up to Christmas, finishing with a Christmas party which will of course involve food! The Cubs have had a plastic awareness evening, finding out how long it takes plastics to break down and the problems it causes. They have also been working on their Our World Challenge Award by learning about different countries, cooking the food and finding out about the traditional dress.

As part of the Remembrance period the Scouts had a WW1 recruitment and frontline experience where they spent the evening immersed in life as a recruit and in the trenches. The hut was turned into a recruitment office and a trench for the evening. The Scouts had to enlist, undergo basic training and then go to the trench on the frontline at the Battle of Passchendaele. Realistic battle noise and video clips of life in the trenches enabled the Scouts to discover a bit about life for a WW1 soldier. The last meeting before Christmas will be a hike followed by a sleepover at the hut which as always will involve food, games, more food, films, sleep and more food!

We are pleased to say that our work on plastic awareness is continuing. The Scouts are working with Kerry, our Parish Council Clerk, to develop a website page where villagers can pledge to reduce single use plastic – more on that soon. Some of the leaders are also working on plastic ‘bricks’ – again more on that at a later date.

We have been unable to recruit new leaders for the Explorer Unit at this present time, so the decision has been taken by both the group and the District team, to make the unit dormant for the time being. A number of the Explorers continue to be involved in the group as Young Leaders in all sections. We hope that we will be successful in the future in finding leaders to make this unit active again. We also currently need a Secretary for the group. If you have a few hours to spare each month and can help, or would be interested in becoming an Explorer leader, please email winghamscouts@gmail.com