



# TOM TOM



## The Newsletter of Hastings, Rye & District Scouting

April 2008

### News From The DC



Once again Scouts were out in force at the Half Marathon, many thanks to all that helped and well done to those of you that ran or walked the route.

I hope that you have decided who will be carrying your Flag at our St George's Day Parade, and have given Stewart Hayler their name and contact details. I know that the School Holiday will mean that you are not likely to see the Young Person the week before the rehearsal, but please make sure they have the Flag, bucket and Flag Pot to take with them to the rehearsal on the Saturday.

The District AGM has been booked for 8pm Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> June at the Shepherd Room, Battle Memorial Halls, High Street Battle.

Please let me know when you are having your AGMs as soon as you have arranged a date. I will try to get to as many as possible, but my diary gets filled up quickly.

There will be a Rifle Range Officers Course for Leaders on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> June at the 24<sup>th</sup> HQ, from 9.30am - 4pm. The cost will be £20 per person, £10 will be paid by the District and I would suggest that your Group pays the other half. There is a maximum of ten places on this course, so I will only accept one Leader from each Group, and it will be on a first come first served basis. Please contact me to book your place.

Drop in Training Dates  
Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> April  
**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> May CANCELLED.**  
Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June.

### Chief Scout's Awards

There will be a presentation for Beavers and Cub Scouts that have gained their Bronze and Silver Chief Scout's Award in the last 10 months. It will be held at Christ Church, St. Leonards, 3.30pm On Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May. Please let Stuart Old have the names of the Young People ASAP, latest being Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April, with approximate numbers of those attending. Parents, relatives and Leaders are welcome. There will be refreshments after the presentation.

Congratulations to all the Explorers that took part in the County Overland Hike, you did yourselves and the District proud. **Well Done.**

### Date for your Diary.

District Swimming Gala, Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October, Summerfields.

Judith Collins [dc@hastingscouts.org](mailto:dc@hastingscouts.org) 852934

### Cub Information



#### District Cub Football Tournament

Entries should now be in – if your pack wishes to take part and has not yet returned the form please contact me immediately.

#### Swimming Gala (All sections)

The District Swimming Gala will be on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October at Summerfields Swimming Pool. Details to follow.

#### Sixers and Seconders Weekend

At 8am on the 8<sup>th</sup> March, 60 sixers and seconders from 11 cub packs took part in the Sixers and Seconders Weekend. We travelled by coach directly to Chatham dockyard where we spent the day exploring the ships, ropary and dockyard. All the cubs saw how rope was made and some got involved in the making process. We all went on the ship and submarine as well as the various other buildings within the museum. After an evening meal (prepared by McDonalds) we headed to the scout hut. The 41<sup>st</sup> Medway Scout group has a fantastic hut with a huge hall, stage, kitchen leaders room and was ideal for our stay. We spent some time thinking about the role of a sixer or seconder and planned a themed programme for a night. We finished the evening with film.

Go here for the notes made.....

<http://www.hastingscouts.org/other/cubs/cubnotesixsec.pdf>

On Sunday we rose to cooked breakfast prepared and served by the leaders. After clearing away we played some games in the hall before catching the coach to Chatham to go Bowling. We then got back onto the coach and were dropped off at Romney where we caught the train to Dungeness. We then made our way home.

Thank you to Ray for planning the whole weekend and to all the cubs and leaders for coming along.

#### Leaders Meeting – Change of Date

There will be a District Cub Leaders meeting on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April at 8.30pm at Walkers Wine Bar, Robertson Street, Hastings. Please make sure your pack is represented.

#### Leaders Camp

For all cub leaders, assistants and helpers are invited to our leaders camp between the 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> July 2008 at Guestwell Scout HQ. This is not a training weekend, not a full on drinking weekend, but a chance to learn from each other, share skills and has some good fun with similar, like minded adults. The cost of the camp is £15 per person which is basically food and the Guestwell fee. Please see attached letter for more information. Closing date 30<sup>th</sup> May 2008.

Or go here for info and booking form....

<http://www.hastingscouts.org/other/cubs/lweekend.pdf>

#### District Cub Camp

Congratulations to Ethan Phillips, 1<sup>st</sup> Westfield Cubs who has won the badge competition (Images attached). The badge will be produced in time for camp and every cub will be presented with one of these. Ethan has also won his trip to the camp – congratulation to him.

Stuart Old ADC (Cubs) 07734 861796  
[cubs@stuartold.com](mailto:cubs@stuartold.com)



**District Cub Camp**  
Picture shows Ethan's badge drawing left, and on right how it will be when produced.





## Overland Hike 2008

3 teams of Explorers headed for Falmer village Hall last Saturday morning, ready for the start of the toughest Scout incident hike of the year. One team from Phoenix unit and two Teams from Hydra passed through the tough checking in process to start a Hike of 16 ½ miles on the first day and 10 miles on the second day, each carrying about 11kg of kit.

At each checkpoint teams had to undertake a number of challenges to gain much needed points. These included Horticulture, Cycling proficiency, Block and tackle, knots, Bearings, Knowledge of pop songs etc.

At the end of the first day, teams were assessed on their camping and cooking skills, by producing a meal in a very wet and windy field near Falmer. Aching limbs rested and blisters redressed, they were on their way the next morning hiking and undertaking further incidents, finishing early afternoon in Plumpton Green Village hall.

After a hot meal, a well earned rest and first aid! The presentations were made by the County Commissioners of East and West Sussex. Our District hoped to do well but were even more delighted by the actual result.

**Phoenix Team 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Hydra Team A 3<sup>rd</sup> Place and Hydra Team B 4<sup>th</sup> Place.** A fantastic achievement, considering that 3 of our team members had never attempted this hike before.

Well done to all involved, your hard work and preparation paid off.

My thanks also go to the leaders/parents that helped prepare and transport the teams. And to the fantastic First Aid Team who supported me in covering the event.

I hope these great achievements; inspire other Scout Troops and Explorers to attempt this challenge next year.



Picture shows all teams after prize giving in front of Ambulance used by the First Aid Team also from Hastings

## Wales Camp 9<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> April

Our trip to the Brecon Beacons is now fully organised. Activities such as Hiking, Caving and gorge walking have been planned as well as a trip into Cardiff City centre where we will be visiting the new Cardiff international leisure Pool. Final details have now been sent out.

## The Scout & Guide Shop

# Shop

The Scout & Guide Shop is at  
8 Alexandra Parade, Park Avenue, Hastings.

### Normal Opening Times

Mondays 7.15pm until 9.30pm, and the 1st Saturday in the month from 9.00am until 11.00am, (term time only).

We will be closed for the school holidays on Monday April 14th and reopen on the 21st. The next Saturday opening is May 3rd. We will also be closed on May 5th as it is a Bank Holiday. There are still a few groups who have not ordered their new publications from us. We now have the publications in stock, so come and buy them from us to benefit local Scouting. The discount cheques should go out in the next month. Please bank them promptly.

Contact the Scout Shop at **429054**  
**Or 429206 (home)**  
[scoutshop@hastingscouts.org](mailto:scoutshop@hastingscouts.org)

## Young Leaders Unit



Module's A and I were undertaken last week

at the Phoenix Unit. A programme of modules will be sent out at the end of this month detailing future modules and activities. I will need ALL Young

Leaders who are operating within sections, who do not currently attend Phoenix, Hydra or Rye Units to contact Fiona Adams or myself ASAP. Your £20 termly subs **must** be paid at the start of next term to cover the YL unit expenses and individual capitation fees.

## Hastings Half Marathon

Well done to a team of Leaders, Network Scouts and Explorer Scouts who took part in the race to raise funds for the Summer Expedition to France this summer.

A great achievement by all and Approx £250 raised in sponsorship.

Thanks also to all Explorers and leaders who helped at the various Water Stations around the course in support of this great event.

## St Georges Day Parade and Service.

I'm hoping for yet another great turnout of Explorer Scouts to show the town that we're here and proud to belong to the Section. As usual I would like **ALL** Explorers to Parade together and not with the section they are a young leader with, unless the Section desperately needs you to help Marshal their young people.

All details were sent out by email last week.

## Explorers Summer Expo 3<sup>rd</sup> August to 11<sup>th</sup> August 2008 – Ardèche and Mediterranean Coast.

Our Trip to France is nearly here. Due to the great amount raised at our recent bag packing days, the cost can be reduced to £250 per person (£90 off). The final Balance of £110 is due by 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2008.

## Andy Bishop

District Explorer Scout Commissioner (DESC).  
[bish7774@orange.net](mailto:bish7774@orange.net)

## Fiona Adams,

District Explorer Scout Administrator (DESA).  
[fadaadaa@sky.com](mailto:fadaadaa@sky.com)

## Congratulations

Go to **Ann Brownhill**, our District Secretary for being awarded the Silver Wolf in the St George's Day Awards.

The Silver Wolf is the unrestricted gift of the Chief Scout and is only awarded 'for service of an exceptional nature' It is not normally awarded until at least a Silver Acorn has been gained. In practice, this means that it is seldom awarded for less than 30 years service.

**Well done Ann from all in the District.**



Our thanks go to Trade Paints Ltd for printing and distributing this newsletter.

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Items for May 2008 Tom Tom should be with Gareth Moore

[chairperson@hastingscouts.org](mailto:chairperson@hastingscouts.org)

By Tuesday 6th May at the latest.



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April 2008



## overland Hike Supplement

On Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March a small group of us went out to Plumpton Green and ran a checkpoint for the Overland Hike – my first experience of the event.

Our checkpoint involved cheese and Potato crisp tasting, which we thought was a pretty easy one to do – Wrong! Becci and I did the shopping (well actually Becci went to Sainsburys whilst I directed her around the store by phone!) and collected all the essentials for the next day (Cheese, crisps, tea etc.) whilst I collected the hardware (mess tent, tables (thanks Stuart) toilet, stove etc.). We arrived at a very muddy field and set everything up and then we had a quick cuppa – good job we did, because shortly after that the first team arrived, then the next and the next and so on & on & on until they were all done at about 2.30, by which time we were all wondering what was the point of bringing chairs!

We managed to feed and confuse the taste buds of about 150 scouts and explorer scouts in all.

I still think that the best one was the girl, who when blindfolded and given a piece of stilton, smelt it, squeezed it and finally tasted it before saying “it’s a young stilton – if it was a mature one it would be more crumbly!!”

There was also a lad who when given a smoky bacon crisp said “that’s cheese and onion – they’re my favourite!”

Educational day for us all really!!

I have to say that in the midst of all the bad press we see in the newspapers, here in deepest darkest Sussex we have 150 young people who are showing self reliance, common sense, map reading and compass skills and teamwork and a variety of other skills on the various bases. They are looking out for and looking after themselves and each other in the fresh air and getting exercise thrown in too. If you ever wondered why you spend so much time doing what you do for scouting, just come and see the Overland in action!

I hope next year I will be able to get a small team from within the Fellowship (and the wider district) to train more young people from this district to take part in this excellent event.



*Mike Botten*

*Hastings, Rye & District Scout Fellowship*

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