

TOM TOM



www.hastingscouts.org.uk

February 2004

Well, we did it - we got our Red Necker! Congratulations to Del, his team and all those who took part in our Gang Show on gaining the recognition we deserve.

Talking of shows, an apology - I forgot to mention last month that I visited the 1st Hastings Christmas show, and very good it was too. Congratulations to all those who worked hard to put it on, especially Bridget who was the driving force behind it and then sadly missed it.

The evenings are slowly getting lighter, which should allow more flexibility in your programmes, so enjoy the great outdoors as much as you can. I have visited a few groups recently and am always impressed at the variety of things going on and the hard work which must have gone into them, so may I take this opportunity to say thank you to you all for the time and effort which you give to the young people in our Movement.

For those who aren't already aware, I am working away from home for the moment, so I will be available a little less than usual. I am available of evenings on my mobile - 07730 056940. This is my work phone, so I'd appreciate no calls during working hours except in emergencies. Incidentally, I had to visit a little place in Essex recently which turned out to be right next to Hylands Park - where the Centenary World Jamboree is to be held in 2007. Looks like a good spot, and dead easy to find!

There is some background work going on in the District to help us move forward (we are a Movement after all!) which will be published in due course. Then all we have to do is work together to implement it - something to look forward to.

In the meantime do please **HAVE FUN!**

Mike Botten, District Commissioner

A piece of history - Tom Tom July 1969

"The friendship of the brotherhood of Scouting is written but sometimes one suspects it is just written. To show it's still very real I quote three recent examples.

A Hastings Scouter heard that a message had been passed through the local police to some German scouts camping nearby. Suspecting trouble he called at the camp. The brother of one of the boys had been killed in Germany. The Scouter arranged the air passage home and took the boy to London airport.

Another German boy had an accident in camp. A BP Guild member took him to hospital, waited with him, and then took him home to sleep a good night in a comfortable bed before returning him to camp.

A parent saw some scouts were involved in a car accident on the sea front and phoned a Scouter. He and another went to see if they could help. A London Scouter and 9 scouts were landed with a smashed van far from their camp site at Ninfield. The two waited until the police enquiries were finished and then ferried them back to camp."

Cub Scouts

for their hospitality.

I hope you now have a better idea of the new training programme and the nights away scheme. Please don't hesitate to call me if you have any questions.

On Saturday 7th Feb the 4th Hastings took part in a sponsored skip for the British Heart Foundation. It took place in the Priory Meadow as part of a "Get fit, keep fit" show aimed at young people. They had been training for some weeks but can now hang up their skipping ropes. Well done everyone. (*But surely the idea is to keep on skipping!!*).

Congratulations to Angela Johnson (3rd Hastings), Michelle Read (9th Hastings) and Frances Richardson (1st Westfield) on obtaining their Woodbadge.

There was a brilliant response to the Herstmonceux trip. 120 Cubs will be working for their scientist badge. Please remember that the cash balance should be paid by Saturday 13th March.

Judith Collins

The Red Scarf

The assessors visited our Gang Show on the Thursday evening and Saturday afternoon.



Thursday: "I have seen a number of previous productions and this is the best one yet. The production bears out the thought I had beforehand that the Hastings Gang Show was already one of the countries recognised shows. The performance last night confirms that they are well up to national standards and deserve the award of the red scarf."

Saturday: "Hastings encompasses all the good things about a gang show. The cast performed in a confident and well disciplined manner. Dance, comedy routines and sketches were well rehearsed and the standard of singing was excellent with many sound solo singers from a variety of ages. Hastings Gang Show is a good advertisement for gang shows and deserves to wear the red scarf."

Congratulations to everyone in any way involved with this production - and indeed with previous productions on the experience of which succeeding ones are built.

We have always been proud of our shows. They have been great fun to do and have brought Scouts and Scouters together from many groups to do a job as one gang. They largely eliminated inter group rivalry and isolation and were the foundation of the Fellowship as well as providing funds to support District activities without resort to a district levy.

A very good thing really!!

Scouts

County Pls Forum. (Fri 23/Sat 24 Apl) Enclosed is a draft leaflet on this. Please nominate two of your Pls/older scouts, to attend. I believe they will find it interesting and the feedback to the troop could be very useful.

County Overland Hike. (27/28-Mar) I have the booklets for this. If you have some real "outdoor" youngsters encourage them to have go at this, and if your can't make up a four we'll try to link them with another troop. But, please, give them some training, physical and mental. It's no picnic, it's a challenge



County Activity Booklet These have been issued to GSLs. Get hold of it. There are many resources for your use and lots of activities planned which could widen the range of your programmes.

Bewl Water Courses I now have the details of this year's courses. If any of your lot are into the wet stuff - canoeing or sailing - (or think they would like to have a try) get the details and encourage them.

Explorer Age Scouts in the Troop. As you may have learned, although we do have some flexibility in this area having youngsters in a section not catering for their age range could have serious insurance implications in the event of an accident. I will be visiting all troops to obtain the names and details of any youngsters in this category and will discuss it with you then.

District Scout Section Leaders Meeting. I intend to hold a meeting of Leaders and Helpers in the Scout section in the next 4 weeks. Date and time to be given later but please try to have your troop represented.

Andy Bishop



Next Saturday opening

6th March

9 - 11 am

Fellowship Rounders and Barbecue. (Sun 25 Jan)

For the uninitiated the helipad is now only used as such in emergencies, otherwise it is set out as a picnic site, with a large barbecue for large parties and a number of family sized ones dotted around the perimeter. Also toilet facilities. There were about 30 of us, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers, Rangers, Fellowship - mainly from the Gang Show cast but it was open to all. We started at 11.30, took the large barbecue, cooked, ate, slid around in the mud playing rounders, had fun - the sun shone on us and we muddily returned home at 3pm.



Beaver Scouts

Thank you to those Colonies that have invited me to see their Beaver Scouts in action. I am working my way round. There are some really excellent ideas and activities being organised.



I have more details of the 18th Birthday Party and will drop some letters to you soon so you can hand them out to your Beavers. The badges are also ready and I have started distributing them.

Thank you for all your hard work.

Ben Richardson (07880 966226)

Saint George's Day Event

The team is thinking about this year's event now. Please pass any ideas that you have to one of the team. We are going to have a more **fun** and **involved** event this year!

Ben Richardson (07880 966226)
Danielle Marchant (07808 936636)
Michael Jackson (07711 328321)

Our thanks to **TRADE PAINTS**
for printing this newsletter

DIARY

FEBRUARY

TUE 17 DISTRICT EXECUTIVE 24th Hast (Wm Parker) HQ 8pm (Ann Brownhill)
 SAT 21 "unofficial" GANG SHOW PARTY Rugby Club 8pm (Becci Marchant)

MARCH

W/E 13/14 LIONS HALF MARATHON
 W/E 27/28 OVERLAND HIKE



APRIL

MON 12 FELLOWSHIP EASTER EGG HUNT (HelenHayler/Stuart Old)
 FRI/SAT 23/24 COUNTY PATROL LEADERS FORUM (Andy Bishop)
 SUN 25 SAINT GEORGE'S DAY (Ben Richardson)

Items for March Tom Tom should be with me by Wednesday 10th March

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