

It's AGM season and I am endeavouring to get around to as many groups as possible (provided you have invited me). Those I can't get to I will ensure another member of the district team attends.

Incidentally, please don't forget the District AGM on 9<sup>th</sup> June at the High Beech - should be a good evening.

The Hastings St. George's day parade and service went well this year and my thanks to the organisers, Ben Richardson, Danielle Marchant and Michael Jackson for doing such a good job. I thought the service was presented really well by Kitson and Sadie who gave it a nice relaxed "feel" whilst maintaining the essential formalities. The music was good as always, thanks to Helen and Gordon.

In Rye there was a good turn out from the Group and although it was a Scout parade with the re-affirming of the promises it was supported by the the MP, the Mayor, the British Legion, the Guides and the Cadets.

I know there is at least one group in the district who are short of help for their summer camp. It's a good opportunity for newer leaders to get some practical experience, so if you are in need of some camping experience, or if you need extra help, either let me know or publish it in Tom-Tom so that others get to know. We should help out each other in this way and it's often a good thing to experience someone else's camp "style" - you never know, you might learn something!

Interestingly, last months comment about the standard of map and compass expertise among our young people was shared by several others, so I will be arranging an event that will provide for that need and show how much fun it really can be, not to mention useful!

My period working away is about to come to an end, so I will be more "available" than I have been in recent months. My thanks to Ken Scott who has covered for me during this time.

**Mike Botten, District Commissioner**

### District Development Plan Launch and AGM

If you have not received a personal invitation to this please Contact us and one will be sent. Please RSVP to the invitation as we do need to know who will attend. This promises to be an excellent evening, please try to be there.

**Ben Richardson (718554) Ann Brownhill (426878)**

### Water Activities.

All Groups should by now have the booklet. There are still some places on the June course but the places for Troop and Pack individual evening sessions are filling up fast.

**Kevin Harmer**

### St George's Day Event

This year was definitely more fun than usual! Please do pass your comments, good or bad, to us so that we can better it next year! A BIG THANK YOU to everyone that contributed towards the day.



**Ben Richardson, Danielle Marchant, Michael Jackson**

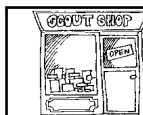
The **3rd Hastings Group** celebrated St George's Day on the 24th April when 39 Cubs, Scouts and Leaders had a day out in Hastings.

"We went to Hastings Castle, Smugglers Caves, and the Sea Life Centre. At Hastings Castle we were given work sheets and went off in twos and threes to work on them. In the Smugglers Caves the same happened and we watched a film. In the Sea Life Centre it was feeding time in the big tank. First they threw in small fish for the trout and rays, then they got bigger fish on sticks for both the angel sharks, but one of the sharks wasn't too hungry."

**Elinor Adie (Cub)**

"Hastings Castle. We all enjoyed looking around the castle grounds and ruins and found parts some of us had never seen before, also we learned a lot from the quizzes we did. Smugglers Adventure was everybody's favourite. We learnt a lot from Hairy Jack, from Emma (who works there and the quiz. We saw how people were tortured and who used the caves and how they were used."

**Simon Potter (Scout)**



**Our Scout Shop** will not open on Bank Holiday Monday but will be open Saturday 5th June, 9-11am

### Kenyan Task Force 2004.

A party of Network & Leaders from East Sussex are going to Kenya on 24th July for 3 weeks, returning to the hostel in Siaya. We will be completing the work on the hostel, installing water systems and showers and erecting a secure fence round the site to keep out the lions! Not the usual campsite security!!

We will also start work on an old building to convert it into a classroom. The government has raised the age of compulsory schooling to 12yrs and there will be more pupils in the school - we are hoping to oversee this project and have the money to employ local labour.

We also hope to visit some other Street Scout Projects East Sussex are supporting.

We will welcome any greetings/newsletters from Groups to take with us. The Kenyans really enjoy hearing from other groups in the World Family of Scouting. If your Group is interested in working for the International Award please contact me. The 3rd Hastings Group is just completing the Award and I know that all the Group have gained from the activities.

**Vicki Clare**



Congratulations to the 11th Hastings who won the recent **5-a-side football** for the second year running, and to the 1st Brede, the runner-up.

It was good to see so many Packs taking part - some with girls in their teams. The team of Dads and Leaders that was quickly put together did very well, though some were limping by the end of the day!



Many thanks to Alan Hemsley for running the tournament, the Scout Fellowship for the scoring, time keeping and refreshments, Andy Bishop for First Aid and Roger Plumb for the use of the 24th headquarters.

The **Gang Show signing on for Cubs** is on Sunday 4th July at the 24th HQ. (A Pirate Party, posters enclosed.) Please tell your Cubs about this and encourage them to go along.

**Judith Collins**

**Beaver Scouts**

**Numbers!** Please let me have the number of Beaver Scouts and Adults (with any others) wanting to attend the party in May (**with the monies**) as soon as possible. I need to confirm the coaches now.



Remember that Beaver Scouts who will be Cub Scouts by the time of the party are still invited as they have been Beaver Scouts this year. If you have new Beaver Scouts before the day they are also invited and spare letters are available from me.

Leaders and helpers only have to pay the coach fee, £4.

Also, please remind your Group Treasurer to pay for the badges.

Any queries? Please don't hesitate to contact me. Thank you!

**Ben Richardson (718554)**

**Canada 2005**

There are two vacancies for Scouts or Explorers on this expedition. Anyone interested should contact Brian Lamb. Tel: 01424-438724

**Overland Hike - 27/28th March**

24 Scout and 31 Explorer teams took part. It was a tough course over the South Downs. There were 14 incidents to cope with along the way as well as humping their equipment. Only 10 Scout and 16 Explorer Scout teams finished. We had 2 Scout teams entered: the Westfield team came 8th and the 6th Hastings team came 10th.

**Chief Scout's Award Holder's Day Out**

Please pass to your ADC the names of the young people in your Section that have achieved this award since last June, and who want to come to this years day out. It will be in June again but the date and venue have yet to be confirmed. Last year we went to the Science Museum in London and everyone had a brilliant day!

It is a big 'well done' to those young people who have worked hard towards their top award and is well worth attending.

We need to know the numbers as soon as possible please.

Thank you!

**Ben Richardson (718554) Danielle Marchant (421062)**

**London Weekend, 11<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> March**

It was quite exciting as no one knew quite what to expect. Carrying all the gear between Waterloo east and the main station was quite a challenge, luckily at Raynes Park the local scout leader picked us up in his minibus and took us to the scout hut.

While we played games (they had more balls in one cupboard than in a sports shop!) Andy made some Tuna pasta with the help of one of the patrol leaders. We then watched a video and went to bed, although not to sleep for some hours!!

On the Friday we woke early as it was quite cold, had breakfast and went out in two groups to do the London scavenger hunt. This was Roaming London on the Tubes and buses, getting various bits of evidence from famous landmarks. The best bit was the hour spent in Hamleys looking at the toys. Tom spent rather too long trying all the electric guitars in Chappels Music shop.

In the evening we went Bowling and had a Macdonalds and went to sleep a lot quicker. We didn't even finish the video.

On Saturday we visited the Tower of London. This was pretty boring apart from when one of the officials got riled when one of the young scouts started mirroring a Beefeaters every move. We were then going to go on Tower bridge but we voted we had had enough culture and instead went for a ride on the sightseeing boat along the Thames. That was really cool. We saw nearly all the sights and I finished my film in less than an hour. We then went back to Hamleys before returning to the scout hut for Spaghetti Bolognese, Monopoly and another video.

On Sunday we packed our gear and went to the London Dungeon which was really creepy but was spoiled a bit by having our gear with us (because of the bomb scare we couldn't leave it anywhere.) We had our packed lunch and then went around HMS Belfast. It was really good playing hide and seek on it. You could also actually move the guns around and pretend to shoot them.

We all got home exhausted on Sunday evening after a really full trip. I can't wait to go again.

**Dom Richard, Scout, 14th Hastings (Guestwell)**

**DIARY**

**JUNE**

WED 9 DISTRICT AGM High Beech Hotel, 8pm (Ann Brownhill)  
 WED 30 DISTRICT EXECUTIVE, 24th (William Parker) HQ (Ann Brownhill)  
 W/E 26/27 CANOEING COURSE - see booklet (Kevin Harmer)

**JULY**

SUN 4 CUB PIRATE PARTY (GANG SHOW AUDITION) (Gina Potter)  
 W/E 10/11 COUNTY COLDITZ CHALLENGE - Scouts & Explorers

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

**Items for June Tom Tom should be with me by Wednesday 16th June (next in September)**

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