

Hi there one and all. We are all physically exhausted from the autumn camp (more below) but November is pressing on so here are the news and views.

### **Mud at the Hut**

We are putting as much pressure on the contractors about the mud around the hut. Especially now that it is dark in the evenings it is even worse for those on foot. I am asking them daily to roll the ground flat but we are not getting too much co-operation and we have taken the matter up with the head office. I shall keep you posted on our progress. If you can turn round at the bottom of Pickforde lane and walk up then it will make matters easier.

### **Beavers**

Fran continues to do a Stirling job with the beavers. We still have places for new children and currently have 8 very enthusiastic little souls. However, Kate is unable to put much time in through personal illness and family commitments so we will be asking parents to help out on a rota basis for the foreseeable future until we can find another helper for the colony. Beavers is the start of scouting and rarely meets outside its weekly hour on Mondays at 6:00pm.

### **Cubs**

Sadly Darren is moving back to Hastings and so we see a situation where cubs needs a new leader yet again. Thanks for your help Darren. Once more our solution for the immediate future is to get parents involved on rota. With the huge numbers of cubs this looks like once a term or even once every other term. We have a great bunch of over 20 cubs that work well together an just soak up activities. They meet at 6:00pm every Tuesday.

### **Beavers and cub bonfire**

Next week beavers meet on Tuesday to join in with the cubs for a bonfire and barbeque with fireworks. All parents are welcome to join us and we will be selling hot drinks, burgers and hot dogs. Come along and bring your family too.

### **New hut**

We are looking for some help with the mammoth task of getting funds for a new scout hut. Our chairman Steve Evans estimates that this could be of the order of £500,000. A meeting date will be organised soon

### **Scouts**

After the efforts to make canoes before the autumn camp we are putting the project on hold for a while. We are organising a Christmas show and meal again this year so watch out for tickets shortly

### **Explorers**

We are starting up an explorer section in the area for 14-18 year olds. This is very different to beavers, cubs or scouts. Meetings are not every week and the programme is decided by the members themselves. The duke of Edinburgh scheme is incorporated into explorers. So if you would like to have more information or have young people who like adventure sports and activities that don't involve simply sitting in front of a TV then contact us.

**Remembrance Parade**

As usual we are celebrating the remembrance parade on Sunday 12th November. We hope that all beavers, cubs and scouts will come along and join in this important event lest we forget those that fought for us to preserve our way of life. We will meet at the village hall car park at 10:30am. The silence will be at the village memorial at 11:00 and a service will take place afterwards in the church finishing at around 12:30. Beavers are not expected to attend the church service. A treat will be arranged for all those cubs and scouts that do attend the church service and parade as a thank you.

**Christmas fundraising**

With Christmas just around the corner we are really looking for some help with the up and coming Christmas fayre annually held in the village square. So if you can make a donation to the raffle, tombola or some cakes please can we have them for the end of the month since the fayre is destined to be held in only 5 weeks. We will be holding a prize draw on the day as usual, taking along a display of the year in scouting and opening the Christmas café for the morning.

**Autumn camp**

What can be said after such a great event? The hard work of our leaders paid off. I think that everyone went home with some great memories if not completely exhausted by the whole thing. We were lucky to be joined by the Wandsworth scouts and explorers, Wadhurst Scouts and some of our families too. The greatest thanks goes to the leaders, helpers and instructors as well as the generosity of our hosts, the Plummer family who really made us welcome. Pictures will shortly be available on the website. If you were there and took some pictures please let us have copies. It would take a whole letter to diary the event so look on the website over the next few days for pictures and highlights. I would challenge anyone now to put together an adventure centre in just a few days that offered woodland, watersports, climbing, fieldsports, hiking, campfires and much much more.

**November Diary**

7th November - Beaver and cub bonfire party 6:00pm - families welcome hot drinks, hot dogs and burgers on sale.

12th November - Remembrance parade 10:30 - beavers cubs and scouts in uniform please (please wear extra clothes UNDER uniform if cold)

25th November - District beginner's hike - The whole scouting district descends on us for a hike around the Ticehurst Area

**December Diary**

8th December - District wide Game

10th December - District carol concert All Saints church Crowborough

15th December - Christmas show at the scout hut 7:30pm

16th December - Christmas Fayre - Village square 10:00pm-1:00pm

17th December - Beaver Father Christmas hunt and party

19th December - Cub Christmas party

21st December - Scouts Christmas Party