



BEAVERS MEET ONLINE



TIM'S BITS

As I sit to write this, it is hard not to reflect on how rapidly our lives have changed since the last newsletter. I know many of our adult volunteers are nurses and healthcare professionals, and many more are employed in the emergency services. In these very troubling times, we are all grateful for their efforts and commitment.

As you will all know, we have had to suspend all face to face Scouting activities. I stress face to face as you will see later on, Scouting can and is still continuing. Sadly, this has meant the cancellation of a number of camps, including Chaldon's

long-standing Easter Cub camp, the even longer standing New Forest Scout camp and the planned bi-annual District Cub Camp, as well as the Cub cross country competition and many, many more.

My last face-to-face group visit was to 1st Warlingham Cubs, when I attended on the day before Scouting was suspended to present Luke and Charlene Palmer with their wood badges and Alexia Dupuis with her 13 year service certificate, well actually her 10 year certificate but because of a number of circumstances it was three years late in being presented!

Scouting as we all know is a movement. Through its 100+ years of existence, it has faced many challenges and yet it is still strong and providing #skillsforlife to millions of young people worldwide.

Although the current situation poses challenges, as Scouts we know we can meet these head-on. Scouts UK has launched The Great Indoors (<https://www.scouts.org.uk/the-great-indoors/>), a programme of activities that can be done at home, either independently or delivered online. I hope that all our leaders and groups will look closely at these resources and explore creative ways to keep Scouting alive in Caterham District during these challenging and worrying times.

I know that some Beaver colonies and Cub packs are already embracing this. One has started a programme of badge work remotely and others are exploring online meetings using Zoom.

I was invited to join Beavers from 1st Caterham for their trial Zoom meeting last

week and it was a resounding success. They joined together for a half hour session with a game and other activities. This allowed the Beavers to see their friends and introduced some routine back into their disrupted lives. I believe as the weeks drag into months, we in Scouting need to step up and play our part in maintaining a sense of routine and normality in the lives of our young people. I encourage everyone to think outside of the box and open your minds to creative ways we can engage our members until we can resume normal meetings.

Chaldon Beavers will be having their first Zoom meeting this week.

Finally, please once again spare a thought for all the NHS staff and other emergency service workers, as well as the increasing number of community volunteers that are facing the current challenge head-on.

Best wishes,

Tim Evans, District Commissioner

ROVERDENE CHALLENGE



This year was the twentieth year of the Roverdene Challenge, what a milestone!

We had Scouts from 1st Caterham, 3rd Caterham, 5th Caterham, Warlingham and Whyteleafe taking part. The Scouts had the choice of two courses. Both courses started at Whyteleafe's HQ and finished at 12th Caterham's HQ. The longer hike should have finished at Roverdene, but because of the state of the field a further challenging loop around Happy Valley was added, before heading to the finish at 12th Caterham's HQ.

Seven teams took part and each team had at least one adult with them for safety reasons.

Congratulations to 1st Caterham Scouts for winning both courses. They managed to find most of the way points and get the right answers – well done!

A big thank you to Martin Burke for setting up the course and running the event. Thank you also to those Scouts that took part and the leaders who gave up their time to make it a success.

John Swanson, District SL

GROUP REPORT



1st Caterham

1st Caterham joined forces with 9th Caterham Guides in a special WaterAid parade service led by Revd Cannon Trevor Mapstone and Revd Frany Long.

In a joint initiative with St Mary's Church, the Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Brownies and Guides learnt about the valuable work of WaterAid in delivering fresh water, sanitation and hygiene to people living in villages and slums in some very poor countries in Asia and Africa.

Tesco very kindly donated a bottle of precious water to each of us. After we had

drunk the water, we filled the bottles up with money – all in aid of WaterAid.

Each of the groups participated fully in the service, including some very moving poems and some lovely prayers.

So far, we've raised £375. There's also a special fundraising WaterAid badge to celebrate the occasion!

Rachel Starling, BSL

NEWSLETTER – MAY 2020 EDITION DEADLINE



Please submit your articles for the May edition to Susan Dobson at Editor@Caterham-Scouts.org.uk by Wednesday 22 April. Photographs are welcomed, although we cannot guarantee to include everything.

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