



**FUN AT THE FIRE STATION – SEE PAGE 3**



**TIM'S BITS**

Well, here we are, the start of a new term and a new Scouting year, with all Groups gearing up for normal Scouting within the current guidelines. I look forward to hearing about all the activities and exciting Scouting being delivered across the District.

AGM season resumes with a vengeance as the Groups that haven't yet held them squeeze them in before the end of the month. I am excited to be able to attend some face to face AGMs, the first for a very long time.

During the summer break I was able to visit a group of Scouts camping near Maidstone. It was a lovely day, actually dry!

After sharing lunch with everyone, it was a pleasure to present some certificates, including long service awards for John and Diane Swanson, and Martin Burke, as well as a Chief Scout's Commendation to Hugh Franklin.

Congratulations to our District Chairman, Peter Lovat, who has been awarded the Award for Merit for outstanding service to Scouting. Peter puts in a huge amount of time behind the scenes and supports 5<sup>th</sup> Caterham helping with section meetings and attending the Executive on my behalf. Thank you Peter, very well deserved.

**Tim Evans, District Commissioner**

## SUMMER CAMP 2021 HAMLET WOOD, MAIDSTONE



Despite restrictions and COVID we made it to camp after 18 months of no camping. We had 20 Scouts from 3<sup>rd</sup> Caterham, 5<sup>th</sup> Caterham, Warlingham and Whyteleafe as a Caterham District Group, plus leaders.

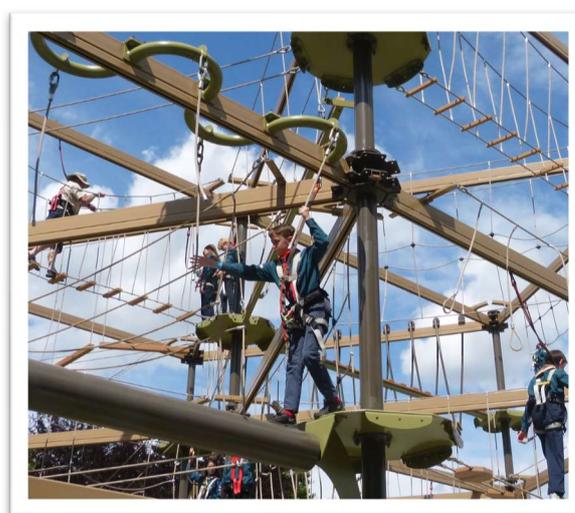
We set up camp on Saturday and although the weather in Caterham was bad, we had a dry day.

On Sunday the Scouts learnt how to use an axe, saw and knives, and each patrol took it in turn to do a BBQ for everyone, putting into practice what they had learnt. The Scouts also started to learn some whittling, which they did at many spare moments during the week.

On Monday and Tuesday they did a two-day hike, each patrol taking a different course.

On Wednesday they had on-site activities, ranging from shooting, frisbee golf, stretch and peg, Swedish kubb and an orienteering course. Tim Evans also came to visit and presented Martin with his 40-year service badge, my 30-year service badge and Diane with her twenty-five year service badge. He also presented Hugh with the Chief Scout's Commendation for Good Service.

On Thursday we went to Mote Park in Maidstone, where the Scouts went swimming in the morning and in the afternoon they went on the high ropes and played Dino golf (a form of crazy golf). Needless to say the Leaders were more competitive than the Scouts! The manager at Mote Park was very helpful in ensuring that the Scouts had a good time. In the evening the Scouts had a campfire where each patrol had to do a song and a skit.



Friday was on-site activities again and we started to close the camp, with the boys moving into the hall for the night and the girls remaining in their tent.

Saturday was nice and dry, and we packed down everything and headed home, only to get to Caterham when the heavens opened.

I would like to thank the warden at Hamlet Wood, Amanda, for her help in making the camp a success, as well as all the leaders. After the camp we had a very complimentary letter from Amanda about how the Scouts were a credit to Caterham District.

**John Swanson, District Scout Leader**



### Chaldon Beavers

A small number of Beavers from Chaldon were able to join a sleepover at our HQ during the summer. This was the first we had been able to have since December 2019, so it was extra special. Because of limitations we only had six Beavers attend, but this meant we were able to do loads of

fun stuff that might have been more difficult with a larger number.

As the new term starts we welcome some new members but sadly say goodbye to some moving on to Cubs.

**Tim Evans, District Commissioner**

### 1<sup>st</sup> Woldingham

Our Scout Group enjoyed a fantastic and hugely diverse June and July full of activities leading up to our well-earned summer break. At the end of June, the Group came together to organise an amazing fundraiser. Whilst the sun shone the Scouts and Cubs rolled up their sleeves to wash 49 cars! Meanwhile, the Beavers manned the book sale and sold delicious Scout-made cakes and cookies.



In July members started working towards their Equestrian badges, and were warmly welcomed by all at Kingsmead Equestrian Centre. The skilled staff delivered a great, neigh, hay-mazing afternoon of activities for our youngsters, engaging them in discussions and practical activities about horse health, grooming and care, grazing management and safety.



Another highlight of July was a superb visit to Godstone Fire Station where the Group was lucky enough to spend a fantastic morning with our local fire brigade. The team took us on a tour of the station, giving the children the opportunity to ask questions, explore and try on the equipment, as well as inviting them to climb aboard the fire engine, whilst at the same time educating them about fire safety and what a job in the fire service might entail. The trip culminated in an exciting opportunity for everyone to operate the hoses! The Group streamed out of the station with soggy socks, super smiling faces and a renewed appreciation for the generosity of our local fire service and the courageous job that they do.



At the end of July, the final stage of the Air Activities Badge was completed with a fascinating tour around Kenley Aerodrome. It was an uplifting morning that rounded off a truly fantastic term for our Group.

We will be kicking off an exciting Autumn term with our annual camp, focusing on two days of water sports. We look forward to sharing some photographs in the next issue.

**Clare Powdrill, 1<sup>st</sup> Woldingham**

## NEWSLETTER – OCTOBER 2021 EDITION DEADLINE



Please submit your articles for the October edition to Susan Dobson at [Editor@Caterham-Scouts.org.uk](mailto:Editor@Caterham-Scouts.org.uk) by Wednesday 22 September. Photographs are welcomed, although we cannot guarantee to include everything.

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