



HARRISON'S ROCKS – SEE PAGE 3



TIM'S BITS

I can't quite believe we are nearly at the end of another year. The time has gone so quickly as we look forward to a fresh start in 2022 and hopefully a year without interruption to face-to-face Scouting.

As many of you will know we have decided to cancel the proposed District Christingle service at the start of December, as we felt with COVID-19 numbers rising it was too great a risk so close to Christmas to have 450+ people in such a tight space. We do hope that groups and sections will hold their own Christingle celebrations and make a donation to The Children's Society.

On a more positive note, I have presented a further four Chief Scout's Gold Awards this month. This is a massive achievement, especially as much of the work was done

during restricted Scouting. I also met up with Peter Lovat at 5th Caterham's AGM to present him with his Award for Merit, well done Peter.

Many of you will be aware of the launch of the new Squirrel section for 4-5 year olds. At present, sections can only open under approval from HQ and the local DC, as the new section is still in the development stage. The full launch will be in January 2023, after which it is hoped it will become as much a part of the group structure as Beavers has become since it was introduced 30 years ago. I am delighted that 2nd Hamsey Green has been approved to start a Squirrel Drey with an expected launch in January 2022, and I looked forward to hearing more about that.

Finally, many of you will know that the Scout Association recently held a 'soft census', this is basically a headcount of youth members. The figures submitted for Caterham District indicate our youth numbers are now at approximately 132% of the numbers submitted in the January census. This is a significant increase and a

real indication of just how good the Scouting we deliver in Caterham District is. Well done and thank you to everyone involved for their continued hard work and dedication.

Tim Evans, District Commissioner

DISTRICT LEADER'S CANAL WEEKEND



With Scouting activities getting back to normal, it was decided that a canal training/familiarisation weekend would be a good idea for leaders to get back to normal activities.

We had seven leaders who took up the challenge. We left Caterham at 2.00 pm, and after what turned out to be a bit of a nightmare journey on the M25 (usual place to the M40), we left and went on the B roads, which again turned out to be busy, but at least we were moving. After four hours travelling we arrived at Braunston and familiarised ourselves with the new procedures that are now in place for using the boats. We then settled down at the local pub and had a meal.

The following morning, with our route planned and preparations made, we left Braunston following the Grand Union Canal towards Leamington Spa. Some had

never completed this route before. This turned out to be a good decision, as I later discovered that an alternative route, which would have taken us in the direction of Stoke Bruerne, was blocked. Traffic on the Grand was light, much to our surprise, as it was a glorious day.

The main purpose of the trip was for those that had not experienced the canals before to learn how to handle the boat and the locks. We completed 46 locks over the weekend. Those that attended came away with some basic knowledge that they can expand and improve upon. A good trip was had by all, and my thanks go to all those who gave up their weekend to pass on their knowledge to make boating a happier and safer place for all.

We are hoping to run the trips for the Cubs, Scouts and Explorers in September and October 2022 (dates will be advertised early next year). For any adults who would like to help out with these weekends, we are hoping to run another training weekend in March 2022. If you would like to help out on any of the weekends, we would strongly recommend that you attend the training weekend, especially if you have no previous boating experience. Boating is a potentially hazardous activity and the safety of participants of all ages is paramount. It is, however, an enjoyable activity that everyone should experience.

John Tobin, Canal trip organiser



3rd Caterham

On Tuesday 5 October 3rd Caterham Scouts visited Kenley Observatory for the Astronomer badge. When we arrived we were split into two groups. Half went to the telescope and the other half went to a room to view a PowerPoint on our part of the solar system.

The evening was a little cloudy, but we were able to see Jupiter and its four largest Galilean moons through the telescope. After the Scouts had seen Jupiter, we then moved onto Saturn with its rings. They looked spectacular. We had been pointed out two bright lights in the sky that were

Jupiter and Saturn and then to see them through the telescope was amazing.

The two groups swapped over, and we looked at the PowerPoint, which was very interesting and the Scouts had lots of questions. The session should have been an hour long, but as it was so good it went on for another 20 minutes. We would highly recommend a visit. More details can be found at <http://www.croydonastro.org.uk/> and to book email: m.gaiger@yahoo.com

John Swanson, SL

1st Woldingham

We updated you last month on our Scout Group's exciting watersports activities while at our summer camp. The resilience, courage and perseverance demonstrated by our young people at Mercer's Lake was evidenced yet again this month when our Group ventured to Harrison's Rocks and reached new heights, quite literally! Some members were new to climbing and scrambling, while others had returned to challenge themselves with more difficult climbs. Everyone was undeterred by the sight of the mighty rocks and showed tremendous determination and perseverance in conquering the lofty sandstone crag!

On a sunny Saturday morning in September, one of our leaders, who is also a talented biologist, guided us on a conservation and nature expedition into Gangers Wood. The Group learned about the biodiversity of our local area and, worksheets in hand, succeeded in discovering and identifying different types of fungi, trees, plants, birds and berries that flourish in our local woodland. A fun and educational adventure was had by all and

we were reminded how fortunate we are to be able to access such rich and beautiful countryside right on our doorstep.



The last weekend of September saw us enjoying some fantastic and energetic games on the Glebe. We then returned to our Scout hut for both investiture and 'moving on' ceremonies. It was wonderful to cheer on our Beavers and Cubs who were moving on to the next stage of their Scouting journey.

Impact badges and took part in the village litter pick. As soggy conditions prevailed, our young people remained in good cheer, seized their litter pickers with gusto and worked hard to remove an enormous amount of litter from our village! Well done to everyone who took part!

Abigail Paton

At the beginning of October members started working towards their Community

ROVERDENE WORKING PARTY

I have yet to hear from anyone who is aiming to attend the working party on Tuesday 2 November. If there are no responses then I will cancel the event.

Gwen Hoare, District Secretary and Roverdene Bookings

NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER 2021 EDITION DEADLINE

Please submit your articles for the December edition to Susan Dobson at Editor@Caterham-Scouts.org.uk by Wednesday 24 November. Photographs are welcomed, although we cannot guarantee to include everything.

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