



# CUBS HAVE FUN AT CAMP



**W**E couldn't have had a wetter or colder weekend for District Cub Camp but that didn't stop the 90 young people from six Groups enjoying themselves at Bexon Lane Camp site, Sittingbourne over the weekend of May 7 to 9.

For some of the leaders it was a treat to set up camp and have a night under canvas without having to worry about their young people as they did not arrive until Saturday morning.

The rain that has started overnight carried on intermittently throughout the whole day but there were still queues for the go

-carts, rifle shooting and climbing, once the wall was erected. Another popular activity was Bat and Trap – who knows there might be some good pub teams in the making. Quizzes and word searches and collages were offered in an attempt to keep the Cubs dry but they didn't seem to mind the conditions as they took part

in orienteering and played other games in the damp. Parachute games in the hall proved popular too.

After an early evening wide game everyone went into to the hall for a camp fire and a film show before setting off for their own camp sites for bed. It seemed no sooner they had settled down, it was (very) early Sunday morning! The rain held off for a short while and then it was back to the activities in the rain, which by then included archery, delayed from the Saturday afternoon.

To give the leaders time for striking, another film was shown after lunch and by 3.45 parents had started to arrive.

My thanks to all the instructors and leaders without whom the camp could not have happened. Special thanks to Mary and Colin Read who came each day to man the tuck shop and dispense drinks to the young people and to Dean for his invaluable support.

*Marion Isaacs*  
ADC Cubs

*PS. If anyone has two little ducks from the orienteering course, the 4th Dolphin Pack would like them back.*

## A new beginning

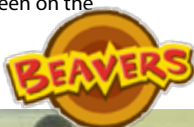
by Chris Powell, ADC Beavers

On Wednesday 21st April, along with Terry Weeks, Sadie and Terry Tompkins (from 4th Gillingham Group) supported by Dean Harding and Darren Carter I reopened the 25th Scout Group. We had a list of five beavers and seven turned up on the night. The evening was just fun and games whilst Dean and Darren spoke to the parents and introduced them to the world of Scouting.

The evening was a great success and three parents have joined the Group to act as helpers. We have moved on since then and have introduced the beavers to knotting led by Terry Weeks and I have spent the last two weeks talking about Baden-Powell and their motto and promise. We have also practiced the Scout sign and they were informed how this links into their promise as well as meeting a Zulu warrior (picture form) to help them understand why we shake left handed.

Between now and their investiture we will be having a week on fire hazards and fire drill to be led by Sadie Tompkins and then we will look to complete their Fitness badge so that they can all be presented with their first badge when they are invested.

Over the last 5 weeks the group has grown to thirteen on the books which is a very good. With some approaching 8 years old within September to December this should help start the Cub section.



## FROM THE DC...



As I write this month's piece I am also thinking of my report for the District AGM (I hope to see you all there on Monday the 7th June); this has made me reflect on the year just gone, and the achievements of the whole District which have been really fantastic. It also makes me realise how time flies when you're having fun, and I have certainly had that since being your District Commissioner.

We still have a long way to go in some areas, but remember Rome wasn't built in a day! Myself and the District Team do feel we are making progress and the District is supporting scouting move in the right direction, I hope you feel the same.

On behalf of the District Team I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every adult volunteer for the hours they put into working for young people in Gillingham District, without your time and commitment young people would certainly be missing out on some great adventures.

We would also thank you for your support at events and meetings and ask that you continue to support and work as part of one of the best Districts in Kent! (I know I am biased!)

Congratulations to the 4th Gillingham who successfully retained RN recognition, an outstanding inspection and some great feedback by the inspecting officer, well done!

I hope you all Have fun in the Sun

*Dean*



## Congratulations...

...to June and Arthur Laming who recently celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary with a small gathering of family and friends.

# SEA SCOUTS STILL No.1

George Large reports on the 4th Gillingham Sea Scout Group's recent RN Inspection

**B**EING a Royal Navy Recognized Sea Scout Unit, the 4th Sea Scouts are partially funded by the Royal Navy to help pay for badges, caps and water activity equipment, that is if they pass muster (inspection) and they are inspected every 18 months. If they do not pass muster (Inspection) then they lose the funding and the Number 1 Admiralty Recognition.

This year the inspection was held at the Strand, Gillingham (a wet inspection) as the weather was very favourable for dinghy sailing, pulling (rowing) and canoeing, if it was going to be a dry inspection this would mean that the weather was to bad to go afloat and would

be carried out at the 4th HQ doing scouting activities. The inspection this year was again taken be Lieutenant Commander David Griffiths BSc BA RN.

Having been a past Scout Leader of the 4th for many memorable years, and honorary member I hope, I was invited along by the Group Scout Leader David Perkins (I taught him all he knows!).

The inspection started at 1530hrs, the first part of the inspection was afloat, the scouts and the explorer unit took to the water in sailing dinghies, a pulling boat and canoes. The inspecting officer watched and instructed from one of the safety boats, as they went through manoeuvres and exercises from him, I watched from the shore with David and from what I could see they were all doing very well. The sailors going about jibbing the pullers (rowers) doing well but catching crabs as well (not having the oars in the water properly) under the instruction of Mawson Knight. The canoeists were under the watchful eye of the Scout Leader Michael Mount.

Not being a canoeist myself I don't know what they were up to



to every Naval outpost and ship. The results of the race between the Scouts and Explorers. The Scouts won good on them well done.

The next part of the inspection was at 1900hrs at the 4th HQ. The Troop was presented to the inspecting officer by Patrol Leader Abbie Michel on crutches as she had broken her leg only three days before doing a fitness challenge on her bicycle; Abbie insisted that she wanted to do it.

The troop was called to the alert; the Inspecting Officer started the inspection speaking to every scout and asking how and what they had to do to gain their badges. At the end of the inspection he presented many scout awards and badges as well as awards for some of the leaders.

It was crunch time, he gathered all the scouts in front of him and sat them down to give them his results of the inspection, he asked how they thought they had done, did they pass or fail, shoulders shrugged with don't knows, might have sir, could have sir and some quiet yeses.

He summed it up in his own words going through the events of the day, very impressed with both water activities and the uniform and badge inspection, then he asked again did they think they passed, they all shouted out yes.

His last words were I only have one thing to say and that is...

## YES YOU PASSED

to a sigh of relief from all of the Leaders and Helpers.

Well done all round.



lining up, some getting out and standing up and some walking on the canoes, not for me.

About 1730hrs it was time to come ashore and the weather was getting cold, wash down all the equipment and themselves put it away and get changed and get something warm inside themselves, hot dogs and hot drinks.

To end the Inspection at the Strand the Group put on a field gun race (pictured on front page) between the Explorers and the Scouts. It was a tradition in the Royal Navy until a few years ago to have this race to see who could get their gun ready for action taking it though and over obstacles and fire a round, this race was between the three main Dockyards, Plymouth, Portsmouth and Chatham held every year at the Royal Tournament and the results were sent around the world



## CONNECT 2010

### CONNECT 2010 is fast approaching.

We are entertaining 30 young people, aged 9-13 years old with special needs, for a day of fun and Scouting friendship.

We are looking for help with activities.

- ◆ Can you help?
- ◆ Can you provide an activity?
- ◆ Can you offer a Scouting skill?
- ◆ Are you good at Barbecues?

The event takes place on Saturday 3rd July 2010 at Bexon Lane Scout Campsite, Bredgar, near Sittingbourne, 9.30am-3.30pm.

Your help will be much appreciated - please contact us Pam Burnop 01795



# I'm a Beaver, Get me out of here!

ON Saturday 22 May we held the "I'm a Beaver, Get me out of here" event at the 21st HQ. 104 beavers attended along with their respective leaders and despite the overcast start to the day the sun shone and all had a good time.

I split the beavers up not in their Colonies but by a mixture of age. This meant that not only did they face the challenges but they also had to get to know new people and learn how to work as a team. The only concession was where special needs beavers were allowed to 'buddy up' with other beavers to help them complete the tasks.

There were nine challenges available to the beavers along with badge making, and the day included a BBQ and free drinks.

The beavers were told that their whole team had to complete all the challenges so that they could successfully collect a letter. This letter formed the last challenge which was to work out the two words that the letters spelt.

## The challenges were:-

- ◆ Mystery Tunnel: this they had to crawl through and identify the various different fibres within.
- ◆ Feely Boxes: place their hands inside boxes and identify the objects within - including the snakes!!! (rubber ones)
- ◆ Taste Table: included toads' spawn, the dried skin collected off a sleeping tramp's foot, worms freshly collected from the Strand, teachers' dandruff and sheep's eyes (these actually consisted of jelly with sultanas, scraped mango, spaghetti with chocolate sprinkled on top, crumbled crackers and lychees)
- ◆ The next challenge had something to do with vomit (it was actually yoghurt and cheese)
- ◆ Elephant poo: here they were blindfolded and led into a tent where they were informed that an elephant was outside the rear of the tent and each would be given a plate of poo to eat. (small ring doughnuts with sauce poured over them). They first felt the contents of the plate before being asked to eat it!!
- ◆ Placing their hands inside a large container of horrible-looking liquid to fish out the various objects inside
- ◆ The Human Knot: this is easy if you have tried it before but becomes hard if you let go of someone's hand
- ◆ Find the insects: this consisted of the beavers using their mouths to go into this evil-looking concoction to fish out insects
- ◆ Feely box: here they again had to place their hands into a box to find what was inside.



All the events produced different responses from the beavers. Some initially refused but with the support of their team they attempted the task and others showed great courage and attacked each challenge with gusto and determination to succeed.

They all worked out the two words which could spell BEAVER DAM, BEAVER MAD or MAD BEAVER. I accepted all versions but they agreed at the end it should be MAD BEAVER.

*Chris Powell*  
ADC Beavers

**Thanks...** to all the leaders who thought up the events and ran them, to Roger Isaacs for the use of his badge-making kit, Frank and Kevin Gillespie for running the badge equipment, Mike Dowsett for the BBQ on such a hot day, along with Assistant Leader Emma Barnes, Lynne Gillespie and Elaine McGuinness for controlling the access to drinks and toilets, and Ralph Gifford and Duncan Page for opening up the hut and putting up the mess tent for our use. Finally, a big thank you to the two cubs who cheerfully ran the drinks area for us all day without complaint and informed me when we were running low so that I could obtain new supplies before we ran out. Well done to Jamie Bardle and Courtney-jane McCarvill