

Scouts launch appeal for new HQ

**Planning victory was
only half the battle**

KEMSING'S Scout group is launching a fundraising campaign to pay for the new headquarters that they have won the right to build.

Shortly before Christmas, and despite parish council opposition, a Government inspector overturned a decision by Sevenoaks District Council and granted Kemsing Beavers, Cubs and Scouts planning permission for a new hut on Kemsing recreation ground.

It ended over six years of campaigning but the celebrations have been short lived because the group now needs to raise the £350,000 to build it – and they want it finished in two years!

Group Scout Leader Chris Arnold said: "It sounds ambitious but we will be approaching various organisations for funding, including the Landfill Communities Fund (LCF) and lottery funding and funding from



Modern: The new Scout hut will have the latest facilities for what is Kent's largest village

the parish council. We have organised a small group dedicated towards funding and are looking for local business support for this community project."

"We will also be fundraising within the village, with events and sponsorship. This is a building for the whole community."



Page 8: Chef's badge at the 3rd

Not fit for purpose

Even the casual observer would realise the existing hut is crying out for replacement. It was built 41 years ago as a temporary pre-fabricated concrete structure and is now almost three times older than the 15 years it was designed to survive. It is simply not fit for purpose.

Drainage on the recreation field is appalling and even if the parents and children of the 60-strong group make it through the quagmire to the front door, they find water dripping through the asbestos roof above and damp coming up through the floor, which has started to rot.

Chris, who has made it his mission with other group members to replace the hut, said: "Kemsing is the biggest village in Kent and yet our youth work is significantly stifled by our facilities. When this new headquarters is built, people will be knocking at our door to be a



Victorious: Cubs at the 6th learn they have planning permission

Photo courtesy of the Sevenoaks Chronicle

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Fundraising campaign launched for new hut

From page 1

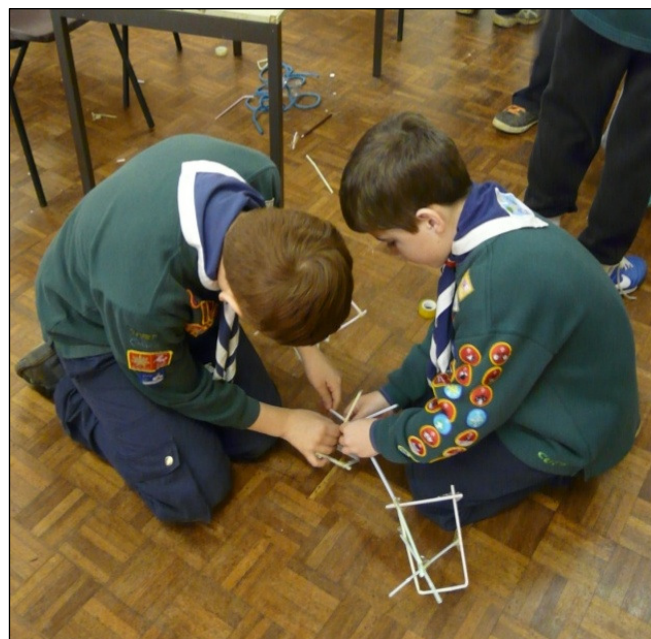
part of this; it will be a great way of recruiting leaders, helpers and young people."

The new hut will boast the latest 'green' technology: a 'living' roof, rainwater harvesting, passive ventilation and the like. The headquarters will be available to all youth organisations and projects as well as all community ventures. It will be built at the east end of the recreation field, just above the top tennis court.

A local charitable trust has already set the ball rolling with a cheque for £250 and a new website has been launched to promote the fundraising campaign: www.northdownsscoutcentre.co.uk.



Dilapidated: The old hut is in a damp boggy plot with water rising from below rotting the floorboards (left) and leaking in through the roof. The hall reached the end of its intended life 26 years ago!



Cub Scout district challenge (see story on next page) - A quick straw poll among these future civil engineers (above): showed that activities such as these were great at building bridges!

Pack, pack - alert! Building a tower of cards suited these two (left)



Wow! I don't remember limbo being on the list of challenges...

Brainy Cubs rise to the district challenge



And the winners are... The 4th St John's pack took first and second place and the 1st Braeside came second. Joint acting District Commissioner Hugh Field (pictured above left) and Assistant District Commissioner (Cubs) John Talbot (above right) were proud of all the Cubs' efforts

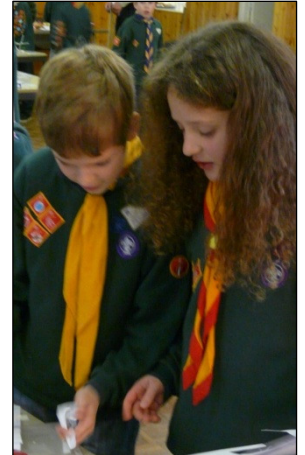
PACKS from all over the district met at 4th St John's HQ in Mill Lane, Sevenoaks, at the end of January to pit their wits against each other.

In teams of four they worked their way through a fantastic list of challenges, from building a tower of cards, to creating a bridge of straws, to performing a magic trick to amaze the judges.

Then, after all that hard work, they had to answer the fiendishly difficult general knowledge questions.

It was all part of the Sevenoaks District Cub Challenge and Quiz which was won by the 4th St John's pack. The 1st Braeside pack came second and another team from the 4th came third.

Huge thanks to organiser Chris Mears (pictured right, demonstrating the continuous circle) and his team of judges for giving up their time.



Concentrate now... After all the hard work of the challenge, the Cubs had to answer general knowledge questions

Nick Roberts, CSL of the 1st Hicks Own is organising a Cubs cross country event in the beautiful setting of St Michael's School, Otford, and has sent this advert.

SEVENOAKS DISTRICT CUBS CROSS COUNTRY EVENT

Sunday 10th March 2013 2-4pm
St Michael's School, Otford

Certificates
for all who run

Medals for first
three Cubs in
each race

Free hot and
cold drinks
and biscuits

District Cross Country Trophy to
the winning Pack based on the
performance of the best two
Cubs from each Pack in each



Two races - one for Cubs who are 9 or under on 10th March
one for Cubs who are over 9 years old.

Entry cost £1 per Cub.

Flipping good time had by all

The 12th Sevenoaks (Edenbridge) Cubs had a flipping good time celebrating Shrove Tuesday.

The pancake race started off well, but by the end there was not a complete pancake to be found!

Luckily Akela had plenty for the youngsters to decorate, with jam, chocolate syrup and fruit. Then came the best part – the eating: yummy!



Help wanted for Cub cyclist badge event

CAN you help with the district Cub cyclist badge event on Sunday 21 April?

Graham Still from Otford Cubs is organising it and would love some support on the day — especially from any assistant leaders who may wish to gain some experience.

He can be contacted on kazakova3@aol.com or 01732 300048.

District Directory

Update No. 1

as at 10th February 2013

District Team	ADC Beaver Scouts correct email to carolineaomahony@aol.com		
District Executive	Change Lesley Grant's address and 'phone numbers to:- Clandon, Leonard Avenue, Otford, TN14 5RB 01959 928173 07753 817702		
District Appointments	Newslink Editor, correct spelling of first name to:- Roger (thanks, Pat!)		
1st	SL (Pegasus)	Malcolm Fisher	Correct address to 38 The Drive, TN13 3AF
3rd	Committee	Delete all details of Fund Raising Chairman, Sue Arnold	
	Insert: Fund raising		
		Clair Davison	guyandclaire@hotmail.co.uk
		32 Marlborough Crescent, Sevenoaks, TN13 2 HD	01732 4517869
		Jannine Ravens	jannine_ravens@hotmail.com
		23 Amherst Place, Sevenoaks, TN13 3BT	01732 469960

Evacuee life remembered

FOR the Sevenoaks District Active Support group's February meeting we were treated to a talk by Ken Fowler entitled "I was an evacuee", writes Pat Crawley.

We heard how he was first evacuated to Hastings but after the invasion of France it was realised that Hastings could be in the front line, so he was re-evacuated to Templeton, Pembrokeshire.

Speaking to a series of maps, we heard all about his travels, trials and tribulations, such as not being wanted by the billeting families as he was with his brother and not many people wanted more than one child. We heard of some of the primitive living conditions in country houses at the time, such as no running water (it had to be pumped up), no gas or electricity (only oil lamps and coal fires) and toilets in a hut



Better late than never! The SDAS New Year lunch, first cancelled by snow and then held in February at The White Rock in Underriver

Picture: Peter Trebell

at the bottom of the garden.

After his description of life as a young boy during the war years there was time for those of us who were old enough to remember, to have five minutes each to briefly give a few memories of our own wartime experiences. These ranged from "fun and games" in an air raid shelter, to those of one member who was called up and served four years in the ATS.

Just three days later we had our New Year Lunch which had been cancelled in January because of the snow. This year it was held at The White Rock pub in Underriver, where 19 of us had a superb lunch, organised really efficiently by Dave Hitchins.

It's now back to work, helping and supporting the District activities. Anyone who would like to join us would be made most welcome.

IT'S TIME TO MAKE A SPLASH...

Cub Splash

15 & 16 June 2013
8.45-12.30pm or 1.15-5pm

Cubs can have lots of fun on the water and earn the Water Activities Badge. Cost £8.50

Kent Cub Section
Bartons Point Coastal Park
Marine Parade
Sheerness Kent

Call Beth Peal on 07967133502
or email beth.peal@kentscouts.org.uk

www.kentscouts.org.uk


scouts
be prepared
scouts.org.uk/join



Sevenoaks District Active Support events for March 2013

These are open to everyone.

All evening meetings at Seal HQ in Mill Lane, Sevenoaks, unless otherwise stated.

Bell ringing at 7.30pm, coffee 8pm

Thursday 14 March

Your selection of music (guess who's chosen what) and photo competition (a) portrait, (b) landscape (c) wildlife.

Thursday 21 March

Hut maintenance

For more information, please phone Pat Crawley on 01732 761449 or email psc.kjc@btinternet.com

Good skills earn Scouts electronics badge

The Westerham Scouts have worked through the Electronics Proficiency Badge.

The aim for the Scouts was to build two fully functioning Maplin electronics kits from component parts: a crawling microbug and a voice changer kit.

Starting from the beginning the Scouts had to learn to recognise different components by their shape, colour and features – this included resistors, capacitors, diodes switches, potentiometers, LDRs (light dependent resistors), LEDs (light emitting diodes), motors and a loudspeaker!

Next, the Scouts had to be able to tell what the markings on the components mean and so be able to select the right component and explain simply the function of the component – a resistor reduces the flow of current, a capacitor stores electric charge, etc.

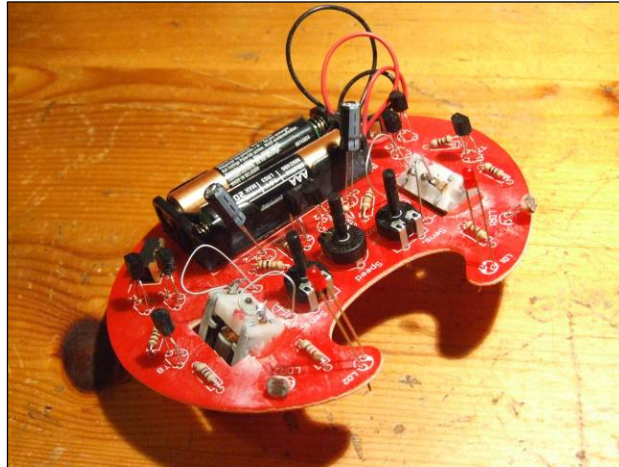
Then came the really exciting part – placing the components on the printed circuit boards to build the kit!

Using a soldering iron and solder, the Scouts placed each component on the board in turn following the instructions provided with each kit. The soldering iron tip gets hot enough to melt metal, so they had to take care! But with their small hands the Scouts were very adept at soldering and the quality of the joints was impressive. The Scouts used a multi-meter to check for continuity to make sure the components were fitted correctly.

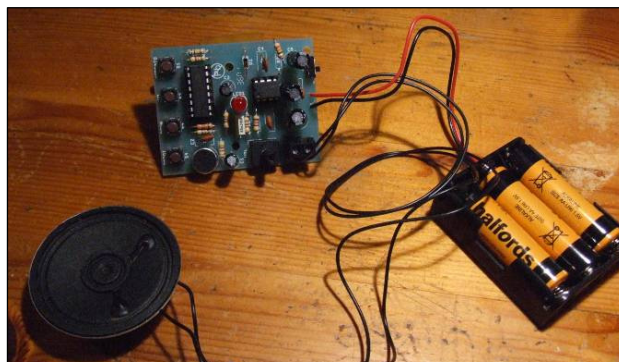
Then – the moment of magic, when the batteries were put in their holders and the power was switched on and this lifeless kit they had built from simple components sprang to life and crawled about the table, always running away from the light! Pure ecstasy!

To round it off a number of the Scouts visited the Science Museum in London where they put their knowledge to work creating still more circuits. I don't think these lessons will be forgotten quickly.

Many thanks to Quintus Murphy



One of the two projects: A crawling microbug



The second: A voice-changer



Tools: Soldering iron, solder and multi-tester



Fitting finale: A visit to the Science Museum

John needs camp nos.

JOHN Talbot, our Assistant District Commissioner for Cubs, needs to know how many Cubs and leaders from each pack will be coming to the district sixers and seconders camp.

John said: "I need all leaders to give me numbers as soon as possible — and certainly by 15 March. That includes any special dietary needs. We also need at least one leader per pack."

The camp will be held from 24 May to 26 May at the 4th Sevenoaks headquarters in Mill Lane, Sevenoaks, and any spare spaces are also open to any Cub over nine and a half years old on 1 May 2013.

Camping will be in packs unless a pack has only a very few Cubs then they may join another pack.

Packs will be responsible for supplying food for two breakfasts and one lunch and snacks to be cooked over an open fire.

There will be a central meal supplied and cooked by district on Saturday evening and a hot dog and soup on Friday evening.

Activities will hopefully include mallet making, camp gadgets, go-kart racing (not motorised), axe and saw skills, air rifle shooting (with parents' permission), blind fold string trail, map and compass course plus wide games, camp fire and a lot of fun! The cost will be just £15 per Cub.

Flagged up

ANOTHER reminder that St George's Day Parade is on 28 April this year.

The theme for the service will be communications and the Cub section will demonstrate semaphore.

ADC John Talbot wants any pack to volunteer four Cubs to send a short message in the church with flags to each pair.



Cubs cook up storm at the 3rd Stanhope

CUBS, leaders and some fabulous parent helpers 'pasta' great evening together last week at the 3rd Sevenoaks Stanhope as they cooked spaghetti Bolognese.

"It was pretty hair-raising at times," admitted one leader, "if only because we had a lot to do in a very short time but the Cubs rose to the challenge and finished the meal complete with garlic and Italian herbs!"

Earlier last month they tried their hand at pancakes and learned the importance of hygiene.

Most popular on spag bol night, though, was lobbing the pasta at the wall to check if it stuck and was therefore cooked (no-one please tell GSL Bertie!).



Pictures by Aura Popa

