



FACE-TO-FACE SCOUTING RESUMES SEE PAGE 2



TIM'S BITS

I am pleased to see face-to-face Scouting resuming around the District. My team has reviewed and processed dozens of risk assessments for both outdoor and indoor activities, and from the feedback I have received, these are going well. Some Groups have delayed the resumption of face to face but I know they are still providing great Scouting opportunities remotely. Thank you all for your determination and resilience in keeping Scouting alive in Caterham District.

Having presented countless Chief Scout's Awards at virtual presentations over the

past seven months, it has been a pleasure to get out and make presentations in person again. I have visited a number of Groups this month. We have used various means of passing over the awards. The most innovative was balancing the badge on the end of a long stick!

I would like to send my special congratulations to Young Leaders, Megan and Lucy of 11th Caterham Beavers. In the very early days of lockdown and before 11th Beavers had started to meet on Zoom, Megan and Lucy took it upon themselves to create a number of YouTube videos to

supplement the work being emailed out to Beavers. These videos covered a range of topics. The key here is that nobody asked them to do this, they saw that it would be useful and they went ahead. For their initiative and enthusiastic support for their Colony under difficult circumstances, it was my pleasure to award both Megan and Lucy with the Commissioner's Commendation. Congratulations to both girls and thank you for all that you do for your section.

Many Groups at this time of year would be preparing to join one of the many Remembrance parades and services that take place in our District. Sadly, this year all of them have been cancelled. I am sure

we will all find a way to remember those that have fallen in the name of their country, and I encourage Groups to build something in to their programmes.

Finally, can I encourage all readers, young or not so young, to take a look at the Scout Association's latest fundraising initiative, <https://www.scouts.org.uk/about-us/support-scouts/race-round-the-world/>

You will see that this is something we can all join in with to help support Scouting in areas where COVID-19 has had a significant financial impact.

Tim Evans, District Commissioner

DISTRICT SCOUT LEADER'S REPORT



I had a day out with the Woldingham Scout Group, climbing at Harrison's Rocks, Groombridge, Kent. Beavers did low-level bouldering and the Cubs, Scouts and Young Leaders went rock climbing. I was very privileged to be asked to join them and thoroughly enjoyed some real, active Scouting.

John Swanson, District Scout Leader

GROUP REPORTS

3rd Caterham

All three sections have returned to face-to-face meetings in the HQ. We have put in safety measures, such as hand towels, sanitiser, etc., and every Beaver, Cub and Scout has their own tray of pencils, a whiteboard, etc., which only they can use.

It has been strange being back with the new safety measures but it seems to be working. Let's hope this continues.

John Swanson, SL

5th Caterham



The Beavers were happy to be invited again to help plant crocus bulbs in the grounds of the Sacred Heart Church. The weather was dry and mild, and the Beavers soon got going with great enthusiasm. They had 1,000 bulbs to plant, and had them all in the ground within an hour! This was our first face-to-face activity since March, and it was wonderful to be back doing an activity together again and meeting our newest members in person.

An enjoyable afternoon was had by all and we can't wait to see the bulbs flowering in the spring.

Audrey Dunne, BSL

1st Warlingham

At 1st Warlingham we have used the COVID-19 lockdown and subsequent restrictions as an opportunity to carry out some remedial work at the hut in Mint Walk. We have a long-term partner organisation, Nippertime Nursery, who use the hut during most weekday mornings. They were also closed and so there was time to work on-site (socially distanced of course!).



The biggest project was the clearing of the car park space opposite the hut, covered in scrubby bushes and trees. Although there was enough room to park three or four

cars, we could do better. Now we have easy parking on dry, hard standing for about 12 vehicles!



We also relocated the play area to a new soft-tiled area, to free up space elsewhere for the Scouts to have a fire pit and cooking area. New stainless-steel washbasins were added in both the boys' and girls' toilets, as well as a new disabled access ramp at the rear entrance of the hut leading to the outdoor area. Finally, new fascias were fitted at the front and rear of the building.

We were very fortunate that because we had no income rental from Nippertime we were able to obtain a Tandridge District Council Business Lockdown Grant of £10k, which enabled us to carry out some of this work. We also received a small grant from Warlingham Parish Council for the disabled ramp as well.

Nippertime is now open again, and 1st Warlingham has also just started face-to-

face meetings again. These have been very difficult times, but I must pay tribute to the brilliant leadership team who have been magnificent during the past eight months supporting all of our young people and the whole Group.

Robin Bloore, Group Chairman

NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER 2020 EDITION DEADLINE



Please submit your articles for the December edition to Susan Dobson at Editor@Caterham-Scouts.org.uk by Wednesday 18 November. Photographs are welcomed, although we cannot guarantee to include everything.

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