



CHRISTINGLES – SEE PAGE 2



TIM'S BITS

Well, here we are, 2022! Happy New Year to you all and I hope you enjoyed the Christmas break.

We start the new year as we finished the last, thankfully there are no additional restrictions so we can look forward to running our normal, varied and exciting programme.

You will probably be aware that the County Commissioner and his deputy, along with a search team within the District, are about to start the search for a new District

Commissioner. This is a truly amazing and rewarding role in Scouting. It is open to anyone regardless of current role or experience, so why not give it a go?

Congratulations

There have been a number of awards for good service approved for members within our District.

John Clarke – The Silver Wolf

John has been awarded The Silver Wolf – the top award for service in UK Scouting.

This is awarded for service of a truly extraordinary nature. John has had a volunteer role in Scouting since July 1954 and has been a member of the Scout Movement since joining Wolf Cubs at the age of eight. Congratulations John and thank you for all the service you have given and continue to give to Scouting.

In addition to this award I would like to congratulate the following for their awards, **Janice Simpson** who has received The Silver Acorn for service of an outstanding nature, **Diane Swanson** and **Janet Enstone** who both received The Bar to the Award for Merit for further service of an

exceptional nature and **Howard Millman, Stephen Wingrave, Rachel Starling, Phillip Seager, Julie Axford, Janette Butler, Audrey Dunne, Alison Clarke** and **Alan Day**, all of whom have received The Chief Scout's Commendation for Good Service.

Well done to all those that have received awards and thank you all for the contribution you have made and continue to make to Scouting in Caterham District.

Tim Evans, District Commissioner

HELP NEEDED AT ROVERDENE

Now that Christmas is over, some of you might enjoy a workout at Roverdene. Matthew is looking for helpers on 4 January 2022 to cut up, remove and burn the dead ash trees that were felled before Christmas onto the plain. Just turn up if you are able to help for any amount of time after 10.00 am. Sorry, no refreshments, but just come and enjoy the great outdoors and some, probably needed, exercise.

Happy New Year to everyone. Thank you.

Gwen Hoare, District Secretary

GROUP REPORTS

Christingle with 1st Caterham



The start of Christmas for Beavers is the ever-popular Christingle service, which is held annually for our District at St Mary's Church. With the cancellation of last years' service, we resorted to a very basic, though homely Zoom alternative. Consequently, this years' service was anticipated with even more excitement. For many it was also a potential marker of things finally getting back to 'normal'! However, as you will no doubt know, sadly with coronavirus figures rising in Tandridge and particularly within younger age groups, the decision was taken to cancel the service. Oh dear ... parents and children had already been informed. What should we do?

With Tim, our DC, encouraging Groups to arrange their own smaller events, options for our Group were considered, and we were very lucky to secure Father Trevor's services to help us celebrate Christingle at St Lawrence's – the Ancient Church opposite St Mary's.



We kicked off with Fr Trevor explaining the elements of the Christingle as we were all set to make our own (in our sections). A hive of oranges, ribbon and of course sweets. In placing our sweets we reflected on what we were grateful for in life and some wrote prayers of thanks, which were later read out as part of the service. We had an opportunity to practise some hymns and readings before parents came and the service began.

A magical evening came together. It was great holding an event with all the young people and leaders – we got the real feeling of our 1st Caterham family. It was probably even more special given that it nearly didn't happen! We definitely need to act on all those opportunities that present themselves – particularly at this time!

With thanks to Fr Trevor Mapstone and Martin Dollery for the music.

Rachel Starling

1st Woldingham



November was a particularly creative month for our Group as our young people worked towards gaining their Creative or DIY badges. For the Beavers this meant designing and constructing an amazing array of models, including rockets, a hedgehog house, swords and bird feeders, all made from the contents of our recycling bins. They also made Christmas tree decorations and heavenly scented orange and clove Christingles. The Cubs and Scouts embarked on a two-part DIY project to learn skills that will help them become even more self-sufficient and useful around their homes! Session one involved learning from our super-skilled leaders and parent helpers about not only designing, sawing, shaping and sanding wood, but also hammering in nails, drilling holes, painting, staining and joining wood together. In the second session the Cubs and Scouts were admirably focused in putting into practice the skills learned earlier in order to

construct their very own boot remover or key rack!



We were also proud to watch our Scout Group and flag bearers parade from our HQ to St Paul's Church for the Remembrance Day ceremony and church service and remember those who have given their life for our freedom and our country.

At the end of November, the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts were broadening their horizons for the World Faith badge and gaining a greater shared understanding of different beliefs and religions. A huge thank you to Reverend Catherine who delivered a fascinating session to the Beavers about St Paul's Church and inspired them to write and share their personal prayers or reflections. Meanwhile in the scout hut, and with great thanks to Beth Stuart, the Cubs and Scouts spent a highly interesting morning learning about Judaism, and we were lucky enough to enjoy some wonderfully tasty honey cake and hamantaschen (freshly baked by Beth).

At the time of writing, the Christmas spirit is flourishing all around us and we are looking forward to a well-earned festive break, but not before we enjoy our end of year Christmas campfire party and one more exciting escapade! Just as the star led the three wise men to Bethlehem, our Group is being led by The Croydon Astronomy Society to Kenley Observatory! We shall be working on the Astronomy Badge and, telescopes aloft, raising our eyes to the hopefully clear skies to find some Christmas stars of our own!

Clare Powdrill

NEWSLETTER – FEBRUARY 2022 EDITION DEADLINE

Please submit your articles for the February edition to Susan Dobson at Editor@Caterham-Scouts.org.uk by Wednesday 26 January. Photographs are welcomed, although we cannot guarantee to include everything.

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