



St George's Day and Wynne-Brooks Lodge

St George's Day was this year recognised by the Renewal of Promises (above) at Buckmore Park, where Groups also took part in a sponsored walk round the Park before the official opening of the district's new facility Wynne-Brooks Lodge. The photograph shows Iris Wynne, our District President, cutting the ribbon.

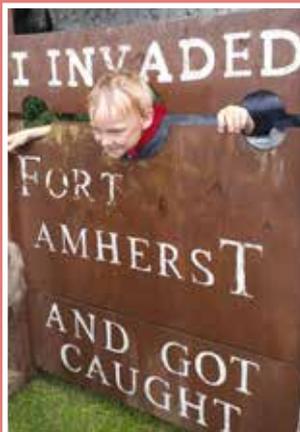


GILLINGHAM SCOUTING

A selection of activities and achievements from the past year

Gillingham celebrates

During 2016 Gillingham along with the rest of the UK celebrated the 100 anniversary of CUBS and the 30th anniversary of BEAVERS. Cubs held a Promise Party in December and the Beavers held a party at Fort Amherst last summer.



District HQ

During the year the District Executive took the decision to purchase the freehold of the 25th Gillingham HQ in Castlemaine Avenue. As a result, ownership and management of the building will pass to the district.

In order to finance the project it has been necessary to borrow money and consequently there will be a need to organise fund raising events over the next couple of years to repay the loan.

The 25th and 7th Groups will continue to use the building for their regular meetings and activities.

BEAVERS

The BEAVER SECTION celebrated their 30th birthday with a pirate themed party at Fort Amherst. Beavers got the chance to have a go at archery, mini zorbs and pedal cars as well as exploring the tunnels.

Working towards being more youth led, a District Beaver Council was set up and met for the first in July.

Beavers held a district Christmas Party at the SOAR Trampoline Centre

Individual colonies were also busy during the year organising their

own activities which included:

- Visits to 'Pets at Home' where beavers learnt about how to look after their pets and had interactive sessions with the animals whilst earning their Animal Badge.
- Themed sleepovers such as Dinosaurs, Halloween and Neverland.
- Beavers joined others from across Kent at the County Birthday Bash at Howletts Wild Animal Park.
- In a week-long project leading up to Remembrance Day beavers achieved their Faith Badge
- Gilwell Fun Day joining beavers from around the country enjoying a variety of outdoor activities.
- A day at Matts Hill campsite learning camping skills such as putting up a tent, cooking over a fire and tying knots
- Visit to Wildwood where the highlight was meeting 'real' beavers!



Scout Active Support

Gillingham Scout Active Support continues to support the district at many events such as District Presentations, St George's Day and Remembrance Day, as well as supporting Groups at section meetings, and also at County events. Recently help has been given at the Wynne-Brooks Lodge (see picture below) at Buckmore Park. Members also hold appointments within the district providing key support in the running of the district. Regular meetings are held every other month, a BBQ in the summer and walks and social events throughout the year.



QUEEN'S SCOUT

Congratulations to Ashley Bond on receiving his Queen's Scout Award during the past year.





Remembrance

Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers and Leaders attended Remembrance Services across the District. The picture shows members outside St Margaret's Church, Rainham.



GILLINGHAM SCOUTS, along with Medway Towns District, is pleased to be chosen as the Medway Messenger Charity of the Year for 2017 and see it as a great opportunity to raise awareness of what Scouting offers girls and boys in the local area.

Challenge and fun!

From caving to climbing trees, around 650 young people from across Gillingham and Medway districts spent a FUNDAY trying out challenging and fun activities at Buckmore Park.

Activities included acrobatics, segways, archery, airgun target shooting, water rockets, flight simulator as well as caving and climbing.



Founder's Day

SCHOOLS across Gillingham took part in Founder's Day on 22nd February, allowing members of Scouting to wear their Beaver, Cub, Scout and adult uniforms to school, instead of their usual school colours!



Awards Presentations

Awards Presentation ceremonies have been held in October last year and in May 2017 where over 100 young people received recognition for achieving their Chief Scout's Award.



cubs

CUB SCOUTS and their leaders celebrated 100 years of adventure with a CUBS100 Promise Party which took place on 16th December, exactly 100 years from when the section was launched. Cub Scouts joined with thousands of others around the UK in renewing their Cub Scout Promise, and had an amazing time with food, craft activities, Disco and Magic show. Cub Packs have arranged their own activities during the year including:

- Two cub packs met together for a Challenge evening. An evening of laughter and concentration with challenges including kims game and water activities.
- Cubs completed their Entertainers Badge by visiting Roger's House to sing christmas carols to the elderly residents.
- One cub pack was the first to enjoy a visit to the newly opened Kent Fire & Rescue base in Watling Street.
- A 2-night stay at Thriftwood saw cubs taking part in a 'winter adventures' weekend with lots of activities including the cresta run.
- Mums, nans and aunts were invited to join the Cubs for an evening of craft activities.
- Cubs raised money for the Kent Air Ambulance.
- Ladies from the local 'Knit and Natter' group visited a cub pack to teach them the age old and sadly forgotten skill of knitting.
- Cubs spent the night at Dover Castle as part of CUBS100 celebrations. This was the first time that any organisation had stayed the night at the castle since the second world war.



Football tournament

Cub, Scout and Explorer teams from 7 different Groups took to the field in our 7-a-side football competition which was held at Brompton Academy.

Everyone who took part received a certificate for the day, 1st and 2nd placed teams gained medals and the winners all took away a trophy.

network



SCOUT NETWORK have done a lot this past year, from camping at Matts Hill, hosting an outdoor cinema night at Bexon Lane to promoting Network over a bowl of noodles with the Explorers.

Next year will be more events, more youth led activities like DofE, working on awards like the Scout of the World, a computing club. 2017 might even mean they are still the undefeated bat and trap champions! They are also looking forward to starting an annual Network discovery camp! where old and new networkers can come together, where explorers find out what Network is about, what we do and that Scouting doesn't stop when you reach 18!



SCOUTS

SCOUTS across the district have enjoyed a wide range of activities including climbing, camping, trampolining, water activities, expeditions, air activities, paintballing, laser tag, activity weekend/christmas meal at Lower Grange Farm and lots more.



EXPLORERS

EXPLORER units have arranged their own programme of activities including:

- A group of explorers experienced a cycling expedition from Brighton to Brownsea Island. This was a great 5 days as it was the kind of next level scouting that we should be striving to achieve.
- Hydra Explorers launched their new rescue boat which was donated by the Rochester Bridge Trust.
- Octane Explorers, together with Scouts from the 1st, took elderly residents Christmas shopping at Asda. Lovingly called 'Grab a Granny' the event was very well received by the elderly people.
- An Urban Challenge was held and won by a team from the Phoenix Unit.
- A group of ten explorers from Hydra paddled their boats from Queenborough, Sheppey to The Strand stopping off on the way at Humble Bee Creek to the remains of a WWI German U-boat.
- Explorers have helped out in the building of the new district facility, Wynne-Brooks Lodge, at Buckmore Park.
- A new district explorer unit, Poseidon ESU, based at the 4th Gillingham recently opened and Jon Green recently invested their leaders on a boat on the River Medway.
- Module A training sessions have been held regularly for Young Leaders.

