



By **Hollie Borland**

EDENBRIDGE explorer and volunteer Penny Smith has been selected to carry the Olympic flame through East Grinstead.

"I couldn't believe it at first," said Penny, 19. "I felt very humbled that people thought that I deserved it when there are so many people who probably deserved it more than I did."

Alongside studying midwifery at King's College London, Penny is a young leader at Brownies, volunteers at a drama club for those who are physically and mentally disabled and runs a youth group for teenagers over the age of 16.

As well as being nominated by her Scout Explorer Leader, Andy King, Penny was also nominated by Councillor Terri Scanes.

Andy said he put Penny's

Scout Explorer set to carry Olympic torch

Penny given chance to shine

name forward because it was about time she received some recognition for her work. "She has been a wonderful citizen for our town of Edenbridge."

Penny knew she had been nominated but was still surprised by her success. "I received an email while I was in a silent computer room at uni," she said, "which was rather annoying because I just wanted to tell everyone!"

A total of 8,000 nominated torchbearers are helping the Olympic Flame on its tour of the UK en route to the Olympic stadium. It embarked on its 70 day journey at Land's End on Monday 19 May.

Penny is one of 11 successful nominees running through East Grinstead on 17 July. You can read her full nomination story at <http://l2012.cm/Lgc9cf>



**Torchbearer extraordinaire:
Penny Smith**



Scouts' beacon boys mark Queen's Diamond Jubilee

SCOUTS lit this massive beacon above Westerham on Monday, 4 June, as part of the Queen's Jubilee celebrations. Arranged by Tim Saunders, John Warde of Squerries came along too to watch the event!

*More on this story
and more Jubilee
pictures inside*

Stone the crows, these Scouts are royalty



AS PART of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations the village of Halstead had many Royal scarecrows appear across the village.

The Beaver Colony and the Scout troop decided there was a mission to accomplish! Jubilee Scarecrows to be displayed in Halstead village needed to be made!

There was great enthusiasm of the Beavers and Scouts ripping and then stuffing paper into the limbs, body and head of their projects! Old Beaver and Scout uniforms were used to dress their characters - but who should they be? Well, Otter and Jackie found a great masks to finish off these Jubilee projects!

And so we present (right) our newest members to the group: 'Prince Harry — Beaver Scout' with the good company of 'Prince Philip Scout' (who has joined just to make sure his grandson doesn't

get up to any mischief!).

'Prince Harry — Beaver Scout' took a trip to the Pratts Bottom Jubilee Fete with one of the Beaver Scouts on Saturday, 26 May and entered the Scarecrow competition where he was placed as runner up!

After his brief royal visit there he decided to join 'Prince Phillip' Scout and spend time with their other family members who can be spotted in different parts of Halstead village!

They celebrated the Diamond Jubilee party with the rest of the village and enjoyed themselves so much that they celebrated by dancing in the rain all week! They are only just starting to take time out to relax (and dry out!).

Barbara Weekes (Incy)

Beaver Scout Leader

7th Sevenoaks (Halstead) Scout

Group



They couldn't stop talking about it!

WESTERHAM Scout leader Quintus Murphy kindly took and sent us the stunning picture from the beacon featured on page 1.

Shown here in another from the series are Alfie Saunders, Adam Doukkali, Conor Hutchinson and James Sharp

Quintus writes: Tim Saunders (Alfie's father) was asked by John Warde of Squerryes to arrange the lighting of the Westerham Beacon. As father of one of my scouts, Tim invited me to bring four of the boys along to light the beacon.

On Sunday the 3rd there was a picnic on the Green in Westerham which the Scouts helped to organise - and they also made tea and cakes for the occasion.

Then on Monday evening the scouts organised a performance by an ABBA tribute band which was held on the Westerham Recreation Ground.

The scouts had rather a late night that

evening - I don't think they got home before 23:00!

It was good to drive around the area afterwards and see all the different beacons in the district.

As James said: "It was a good night and it was great to part of the jubilee"

According to Conor's mother, he didn't stop talking about it the next day!



Olympic feat for 1st Hicks Own

SOME 200 Sevenoaks and District cub scouts took part in their very own Olympics on 28 May — and gained athletes' badges.

Held in the beautiful grounds of St Michael's School in Otford by kind permission of the head teacher, the boys and girls competed in 'disciplines' as diverse as the high jump, back and forth relay, skipping sprint

and 1200m run.

Organiser Nick Roberts said: "I was amazed at how many we got here this evening. They all had a good time and the weather was perfect."

CSL Nick was also pretty made up to discover his pack — the 1st Hicks Own — had won the Sevenoaks District Cubs Sports

Cup (first awarded in 1964 to the 10th Weald pack).

"Not being biased, it was great that we won it — and it was all above board!" he said.

Results: First 1st Hicks Own (with 62 points); second 1st Braeside (with 59 points); joint third 9th Seal and 15th Otford (Seeone) (with 57 points each).



1st Hicks Own pack celebrate (above); their leader (and event organiser) Nick Roberts (right)



A great time was had by all in a series of events including the high jump (below)



Queen's Scout honour for Nigel

WE HAVE a new Queen's Scout in the district. Nigel Burgin was honoured on St George's Day at Windsor with all the new Queen's Scouts. We understand it was quite an occasion and hope to bring you a fuller story in July's issue of *Newslink*.

Deadline

I'M aiming to publish Newslink once a month if the stories keep coming. Please send your pictures and pieces for the next issue by 6 July—roger.perkins@talktalk.net

Credit where credit's due

LAST month's *Newslink* inadvertently gave Bertie Downard the credit for one of the photos we used. This, and some of the others featured, were in fact taken by Andy Harris. Sorry, Andy!

Making silk purse from a pig's ear

WHICHEVER way you put it, a wet evening recently turned into a really good night which the 7th Halstead cubs loved.

With our newly made car park resembling a swamp it was clear that we would need to meet at a different venue, and at the last minute we decided to take the cubs for a walk through the local woods in the rain.

A quick email to the parents warning them to send their little Jack or Jill in decent wet gear and meet up at Andrews Wood and we were all set.

To be honest we weren't expecting any cubs to turn up but much to our surprise nearly all of them came along dressed from head to toe in weather proof clothes.

The rain actually stopped for an hour and we walked through the woods in search of the biggest puddles to splash about in. The evening sun shone through the trees highlighting a wonderful display of bluebells and snowdrops.

Some of the older cubs found shelters they had made during last years camp and they were really excited that they were still standing albeit as water proof as a colander.

Akela had the foresight to bring some plastic sheeting and the cubs set about making an emergency shelter between two trees.

Deeper into the woods now and time for the story of Tully an escaped convict who died in "These very woods" and who's body was found under a large spreading tree "Just like this one" The cubs heard how Tully haunts the woods every springtime in early May OOOOOH!



Time to make tracks to the pick up point and if Tully had any power over the weather he was about to get his own back. The rain came down in bucket loads. The cubs couldn't believe that they could be outside in such weather but still looked for puddles to run through.

The parents were at the pick up point to greet us but I don't think they were too keen to let their children in their cars. A cub night to remember. Loved it!

Investing in their futures



Welcome to the Pack! George Udale is invested at the Stanhope Pack of the 3rd Sevenoaks (Riverhead and Dunton Green). Please send your pictures of investitures to roger.perkins@talktalk.net for inclusion in *Sevenoaks Newslink*

Photo: Paul Heath

Badges on eBay

This from Pam Burridge:

Last year I was given some details of Trefoil Guild member who sold Scout and Guide badges on eBay.

It was not until January this year I went up into my loft to retrieve my collection of badges and to remove many from my own and Fred's campfire blankets.

I had quite a collection including my own Girl Guide badges and my two sons' Cub and Scout badges from back in the '70s that had laid dormant for over 10 years and the family had shown no interest in them.

I took them along to Anne, who lives in Orpington, asking for any money raised to be given to the scout Holiday Homes Trust, a charity close to my heart.

In February I received an interim report telling me the amount had reached £300 — one badge alone raising £100. Last month after deductions for eBay, PenPal and her own commission I had the final figure of £499.57 that I was able to pass on to Holiday Homes.

So if any badge secretaries or retired badge collectors have obsolete badges you may like to turn them into cash for yourselves or a named charity or your own group. Her name is Anne Brown, 4 Monks Way, Orpington Kent BR5 1HN, telephone 01689 811294, anne.brown2000@ntlworld.com. You can check her out on eBay, www.ebay.co.uk as anne4brown. If you are looking for that lost or special badge she may also be able to help you track it down and purchase it.