

# The biggest ever Chiltern 20 continues to break all records

Scouts from across GLN celebrated the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Chiltern 20 with its biggest adventure yet. A record number of 52 teams entered this year's event which included three Hertfordshire based teams from Ridgeway in Tring, two teams from 2<sup>nd</sup> East London entering for the first time and looking resplendent in their bright orange Scout hoodies, and also two teams from our old friends from 20<sup>th</sup> Torbay in Devon.

For the second year running the organisers selected the village hall in Cottered as the main base. This was where teams of between three and five set off at regular intervals from 0800 hrs along a new route which took the walkers through delightful villages of Rushden, Roe Green, Kelshall and Mill End. They sampled the full range of delights of autumnal weather which featured a chilly start, some bright warm sunshine with a mix of some hefty showers thrown in for good measure.

This was the Chiltern 20 at its finest with 10-14 year olds perfecting their teamwork and leadership skills by hiking and navigating their way through nine checkpoints. The young people were the real stars of the show. In the background was a County based organising team supported on the day by 100 adults who enjoyed a day in the countryside as much as the teams.

Every young person who took part went home with an anniversary achievement certificate along with a Fitness Challenge Badge for those who had not yet achieved this award. Over 100 badges were awarded on the day. For the record, the first and second placed teams were identical to last year's placing's with Ridgeway Tring romping home in 3 hours 35 minutes with 23<sup>rd</sup> Southgate some 21 minutes behind. Sixteen minutes later came 20<sup>th</sup> Torbay. The top twelve finishers saw teams from 6<sup>th</sup> Friern Barnet (4<sup>th</sup>), then another team from Ridgeway Tring and another team from 23<sup>rd</sup> Southgate, along with 15<sup>th</sup> Finchley, 12<sup>th</sup> Enfield, 8<sup>th</sup> Holborn, 23<sup>rd</sup> Southgate (three teams in the top ten), 20<sup>th</sup> Southgate (with a brand new Troop which has only recently successfully re-started), and 2<sup>nd</sup> East London. Next to finish was 22<sup>nd</sup> Southgate who won the Committee discretionary cup for the first all girls' team.

The final word comes from Sam, a new Scout Leader at 3<sup>rd</sup> Southgate who said "What a truly fantastic operation I witnessed at the Chiltern 20. Huge thanks from the 3rd Southgate for all that your superb team did to make it happen. I know you're a very experienced bunch but, having never attended before, I can honestly say it was triumph from start to finish - revealing all that is good about Scouting. My husband is an occasional helper and he was blown away. I just wish every parent could witness it. The input of the County Mountaineering team was an excellent addition to the preparation this year and the benefit to all those who took part is in no doubt. "

Thank you all once again.

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