The Chiltern 20 meets The Life of Brian

Storm Brian failed to disrupt the smooth running of this year's 36th consecutive annual Chiltern 20 Challenge Hike. Nearly 300 Scouts from across all four Districts in GLN and way beyond were up for this year's challenge, which saw another huge team entry, with 46 teams entering the senior event and 19 teams entering the junior event.

Princes Risborough School was once again the chosen start and finish for the senior event, whilst the junior event teams were transported in a series of minibuses to checkpoint 3 at the top of Coombe Hill for their chosen start. Both routes then visited the delightful open countryside around Dunsmore, Hampden Bottom, Prestwood and Speen before making their way back to Princes Risborough.

Tougher underfoot conditions meant for overall slower finishing times this year, with only the first two teams breaking five hours in the senior event. The fastest time was recorded by the Phoenix Flyers from 201st Islington, who were the last team to start, and they flew round in 4:04, winning for the second time in three years. They finished 44 minutes in front of our friends from 1st Twickenham, who, in turn were 34 minutes in front of 10th Edmonton, who retained the adult accompanied team trophy. Runners up in this category were the 1st & 3rd New Barnet who finished 15 minutes later.

Two 6th Friern Barnet teams were amongst the largest ever junior event entry, and they finished in 1st and 3rd place. Their appropriately named "Keeping It Together" finished in an excellent 3:58, with just a single minute separating them from the second place 1st & 3rd New Barnet.

Nearly 90% of all starters completed the event, and all teams were back at the school inside ten hours, despite worsening weather as the day wore on. The strengthening wind couldn't blow teams off course.

Yet again, we called upon over 100 adults who spent their entire day volunteering their time to fill the many component parts of the event. And we will all be back to do it all over again next year.