



Amazon Beavers Explorers Alert!!



On the weekend of May 20-21st, 80 Beavers were spotted at Polyapes Scout Camp dressed as



"Explorers of the Amazon"

The morning started with some games and a guided tour around the campsite led by Toad.

After our sausage in a bun lunch the Beavers embarked on their Amazon adventure transforming their outfits into true explorers' kits.

Bases included T-shirt stencilling, binocular and pith helmet making. An Amazon river bouncy slide, decorating animals such as snakes, tree frogs, tropical butterflies, toucans, parrots. Games exploring the Amazon, tepee assembling and decorating.

Thank you mums and dads for all that ribbon tying!

The big finale before dinner was a tepee relay with all the groups.

For dinner Shepherd's pie with peas and sweet corn was served followed by sticky toffee pudding and custard. As one parent put it "Please pass on my special thanks to Debbie, Kim and Sue. My Beaver won't eat my Shepherd's pie but there were lots of good noises as she wolfed down the one prepared for camp!" This sums up our feelings exactly.



Amazon Explorers....



After Investiture of our new Beavers, we joined the campfire led by John Baldwin with all our favourite songs. Funny sketches, involving lots of water and getting wet were performed by various Scout patrols. As some Beavers put it, the campfire is fantastic can we have more of them.

After biscuits, hot chocolate and a Horrid Henry story all the Beavers fell asleep - very quickly.



I am happy to report that the Beavers did not wake up too early. After packing up and tucking into an eggy bread and bacon breakfast it was time for the Going up Ceremony.

This is the event where the older Beavers officially become Cubs by saying goodbye to all their Beaver leaders and receiving a welcome from their Cub Akela.

The structure for the Going up Ceremony was skillfully put together during the Saturday afternoon by some of our Scouts and Scouts' leaders. I must say the end result was puzzling because it had the resemblance of a guillotine... Since then I am happy to report that all heads are still intact.

Thank you very much to all helpers who came before, during and after the weekend. Without all of your help we would not be able to run this event.

Micheline



Group Activity Weekend



We had a very large response for this year's GAW, held at Polyapes, which meant a lot of canvas and equipment was needed. The stores were looking very empty once everything was packed up in readiness.

Unfortunately Thursday evenings weather was not pleasant, to say the very least! But with a great turnout of Cubs and their parents we were able to get everything put up without too much hassle.

As a leader team we would like to thank everyone who came out in the rain to help, it was much appreciated! Except for a brief rain shower over Saturday lunch time the weather stayed dry which enabled us to proceed as planned with the activities.

During Saturday the Cubs completed various activities which enabled them to achieve their Pioneering Interest Badge and those camping will have achieved their Outdoor Challenge Badge, although some may need to do a 3rd nights away.

Activities were;

- Learning how to light fires in windy conditions and eating S'mores
- Made their own rope and woogles,
- As part of a team they built and fired a trebuchet, there were some impressive distances achieved,
- They helped build survival shelters in the woods,
- Learnt about the county side code while making a woven



Group Activity Weekend



flower

- Practised putting up dinning shelter as part of fun team game
- and lastly did some map reading and code breaking.

We finished off the day with another great campfire from our own Hathi, John B.

Sunday turned out to be a nice day, so after bacon sandwiches we set about building picture frames and packing up camp, finishing off with cubs cooking their own lunch.

With the numbers we had on camp, Chef d'Camp Jacala (Rachel) did an amazing job of feeding us with a lovely menu. Not an easy task cooking for over 100 in a camp kitchen. Thanks to her and her team, plus all the leaders on camp, for organising activities and giving up your time.

The Leaders would like to congratulate Luke of Macaw tent for being awarded best sixer in camp and to Snowy Owl tent (Zoe - 6er, Annabel -2nder, Natalie, Deia, Jessica and Ruby) who won the tent competition.

Akela, Lion Pack, Catherine Hackett



Group Activity Weekend



We watched the cubs and parents put up their tents in torrential rain on Thursday evening but didn't dare laugh too much as the forecast for the weekend was not looking good. As it turned out we were extremely lucky and despite a couple of brief showers the weather was perfect for camping and we even managed to get all the canvas down dry on the Sunday, thereby avoiding the task of hanging up around 20 large tents in the group HQ to dry.



The scouts spent Friday evening putting up their tents and preparing a simple snack – Pot Noodles being the most popular choice – before turning in for the night. On Saturday, different groups rotated through various activities including collecting (far too much) wood, chopping and sawing, building camp gadgets and archery. The Patrol Leaders spent much of the day building shelters in the woods in which they intended to spend the night. The scouts did get a little damp during the 'water-testing' of their shelters but after various modifications and rebuilds the shelters were deemed fit to spend the night in. Two out of the three built even stayed up all night, which happily was a dry one.



On Saturday evening, after the scouts had built their fires, prepared their meals and cleared away, we had the traditional campfire with each patrol performing a sketch. Some original, some familiar, all were enjoyed by the campers although a few did get a little wet!

The Assistant Patrol Leaders had spent much of Saturday building a pioneering project to be used for the Going-up Ceremony on Sunday morning. It was an ambitious project and the impressive construction was variously described as a portcullis or, more worryingly, as a 'guillotine' under which new cubs would pass and over which new scouts would climb. In the event all made it through in one piece.



Group Activity Weekend



After the going-up ceremony came the Scouts' favourite part of the camp, when they were required to pack away all the tents and equipment and take all that unnecessary wood back to the woodpile. After two nights with little sleep, quite a few scouts needed a little 'persuasion' to keep working but with everyone helping to put away back at the HQ we were done in good time for a very welcome Sunday afternoon rest.



District Cross Country Run

Over 200 Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers, Leaders and Adult Helpers took part in this year's District Cross Country Run at Oxshott Heath.

The annual event usually takes place on the last Sunday of February and this year was the first year that a timing chip system was introduced to keep track of accurate timings and to ensure that the organisers could hand out the winner's medals to the top three in each section as soon as the races were finished.

Congratulations to the top finishers in each category:

Beavers

| | |
|--------------------------|-------|
| 1 Stanley, The Dittons | 14:49 |
| 2 Ben , 1st Oxshott | 16:05 |
| 3 Will 1st Hinchley Wood | 16:33 |

Cubs

| | |
|---------------------------|-------|
| 1 Ollie, 1st Weston Green | 13:40 |
| 2 Oscar, 1st Oxshott | 13:49 |
| 3 Barnaby, Claygate | 13:59 |

Scouts

| | |
|------------------------------|-------|
| 1 Euan, 2nd Molesey | 23:01 |
| 2 William, 1st Hinchley Wood | 24:26 |
| 3 Finlay, 2nd Molesey | 24:35 |

Explorers

| | |
|-----------------------|-------|
| 1 James, 1st Claygate | 22:57 |
| 2 Sam, 1st Claygate | 22:57 |
| 3 Will, Dittons | 23:11 |

Crew/Adults

| | |
|--------------------------|-------|
| 1 John B, 1st Oxshott | 24:24 |
| 2 Joanna S, 1st Claygate | 24:52 |
| 3 Simon C, 1st Claygate | 28:34 |



The Beaver to finish first for 1st Claygate was Jack and Laurence was the first to finish for the Scouts' section. Well done to all that took part whether you finished running or walking, all the parents and siblings who tried desperately to keep up with the Beavers. We hope to see even more of you taking part next year.

Well done to the 1st Claygate Cubs who won the trophy for the best overall group finish in the cubs' section and the Claygate Explorers and the Service Crew and Leaders who also finished 1st.

A big thank you goes out to all the leaders and helpers who marshalled the course making sure nobody got lost and giving lots of encouragement along the way.

Beavers, your leaders would like to attempt to win the overall trophy for Beavers next year. For the past 10 years we somehow just seem to miss out.

Micheline





Scouts District Day Hike



Scouts from across the district gathered on Saturday 18th March for the annual day hike. This year's location was the Box Hill area. Claygate had a competition team, who were to walk on their own and two training teams, who were accompanied by leaders.

A glance at the map (lots of contours!) suggested this was going to be a challenging course. And so it proved. Half of the teams began the hike by crossing the picturesque stepping stones at the foot of Box Hill before climbing the steps on the path all the way to the top. It was a warm day and a short rest was required at the summit whilst trying not so finish all the water straight away!



The walk through the stunning Surrey Hills countryside was very enjoyable, although the complicated network of footpaths meant a few teams had to retrace their steps a few times to get back on course.

In the end, all the Claygate teams finished the course in good time and the competition team earned valuable points for the district Top Troop Trophy.

Paul Smith



4 Inns Walk



The 4 Inns Walk is a tough competitive walk which takes place in the Peak District over some of the roughest moorland in Britain. Over 100 teams take part and there are 2 routes, 65K for older Explorers & Adults and a 35K route for younger Explorers, who walk with an adult, and older Explorers.

If you read last years Summer newsletter you will know that the Explorers entered 2 teams in the 2016 event with everybody completing the route. Well this year everybody was back wanting to do it again and with many of the new Explorers wanting to take part as well we ended up with 16 walkers and 4 teams!!

The event took place on Saturday 1st April and with the start being over 200 miles away we travelled up on the Friday night and stayed in a church hall just outside of Holmbridge.

We were then up early on the Saturday morning for a short journey to the Snake Pass Inn which is the start of the 35K route. Once the teams had been checked in there was just time for breakfast before everyone had their kit checked.

We were allocated teams numbers 1-4 and so were the first to leave at 10am. The route leaves the Snake and climbs up to the top of Kinder Scout before descending down into Edale. From here its up again and then a long walk downhill into Chapel en-le-Frith. From here its up again to White Hall and then down into the Goyt Valley. This is followed by a long uphill section to the Cat & Fiddle pub and from here the last section is mostly downhill into Buxton and the finish.

I am pleased to report that everybody finished which was a fantastic achievement. The 2 younger teams, David, Jamie, Will, Toby, Tom & Gus finished in 11 hrs 22 mins, the girls team of Gemma, Emma & Kathryn in 8 hrs 45 mins and the boys team of Matthew, Joe, James & Philip who walked without an adult finished in 7 hrs 19 mins and finished 2nd in their category and missed out on 1st place by just 7 minutes!! although they did win a McDonald's from Simon for finishing in under 8 hours.



A quick thank you to Simon, Harriss, & Mark who walked with 3 of the teams, Ed, Tiny & David who along with myself made up our support team and Mark A who was our home contact.

Next year its the 65K route!!
Mark Southey





Summer Fete



thank you!



Orienteering



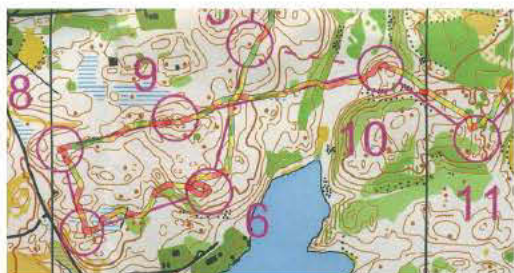
Orienteering is a sport which combines cross country running with map and compass navigation skills. If your scout enjoys being outdoors on a misty autumn morning, (or even a frosty winter one!) or wants to improve or develop map reading skills then Orienteering could be for them. An added attraction is the electronic dibber that is used at each control point to record progress around the course, and the excitement on receiving the resulting print out showing progress between controls (checkpoints.) Some scouts choose to compete seriously, while others use the events as map reading practice – an approach echoed by the leaders involved ! Participation can also be used to sign off elements of the Chief Scout Gold Award and the Navigator Staged Activity badges, and there is also an Orienteer Activity badge.



1st Claygate Scouts and Explorers take part in orienteering via ESOC – the Esher Scouts Orienteering Club, which is run at District level. The orienteering season runs from September to March and ESOC attends the Southern Navigator “Saturday series” meetings which take place once a month on a Saturday morning. The format is very flexible with the

young people able to dip in and out, and for newcomers can join at any stage in the season.

Following a small grant ESOC purchased some special orienteering compasses for the 2016 – 17 season.



In 2015 -16 ESOC surprisingly found itself at the top of the team league for the first time, breaking a long standing duopoly. This feat was repeated in 2016 – 17. This was achieved by a number of scouts from groups across the District some of whom won their age categories. From 1st Claygate Alex D was placed 7th in

the B7 and under age group, and Will B was 5th and earned an orange badge in the B10/11 age group.

Other scouts and explorers from 1st Claygate who took part across the season and contributed points to the ESOC total were: Jamie B, Ben F, Oliver P, Laurence E, Tom H, Oliver B, Ban D, Mackenzie B, Jack C, Joe C, Will B, Archie T, Sophie H and Lucie T.

Well done everyone!

Katie Ernest



Claygate Clean Up



Many thanks to all of the members who helped us to support the Parish Council in the Claygate Clean-up. The Cubs and Beavers did a great job on the Common and the Scouts cleared the approach to the station on the Telephone Exchange side,

One of the parish councillors provided the following accolade:

I was very impressed by the work the Scouts, Cubs and Beavers and their parents were doing.



From my perspective the event is like giving the Village a spring clean and is very satisfying.

Hugh Gostling



Scout & Guide Band Update

The band has had a busy start to the year. January & February was spent rehearsing for our annual concert, held at the Holy Trinity Church in March.

In April the band led the St Georges Day parade held in Hinchley Wood and in June the band entertained at the Claygate Scout Fete.

Looking forward the band will be at 'Scoutabout' in July – an activity weekend for 6000 Surrey Scouts in West Sussex and also in July you will be able to see the band at the Claygate Flower show.

Further details can be found at:
www.claygatescouts.org/band.htm





JOIN THE CELEBRATION!

St. George's Day: A Celebration of Scouting



On the Day of the Parade we assembled on the green outside the shops at Hinchley Wood, along with members of; Cobham, Hinchley Wood and Oxshott.

The Groups formed up into rows and were led off by the 1st Claygate Scout and Guide Band as we marched from the shops to St Christopher's Church which is adjacent to Hinchley Wood School. People came out of their houses to watch as the parade passed and certainly showed the strength of Scouting locally.

So why were we there? St George's Day is certainly more recognised nationally as the Patron Saint of England. However, Baden Powell made St George the Patron

Saint of Scouting back in 1907 so Scouting has always been aligned with St George's Day.

All Sections reaffirm their promise as part of the afternoon and the final part is a march back to Hinchley Wood Shops and again there were a lot of spectators.

Thank you to all the members of the Group who attended and those who acted as marshals for the parade, it was a great event.

Parade highlights can be seen online at:

www.youtube.com/channel/UCvBkuYeXVGRr8ujdP0AifLw



Advanced Canoeing Weekend



Cubs Day Hike



The team comprised of 6 cub. Aklela , Mang and myself. We met in car park near Gomshall on a dry sunny Saturday morning. The cubs were divided into two groups and after receiving the instructions started to plot the routes with the help of Aklela and Mang.

Then we were off with the Cubs taking it turns to navigate whilst the other were looking for answers to the questions we had been set.

After about an hour we stopped for a quick snack and for the cubs to climb on some fallen trees. The cubs navigation proved to very good and



we did not get lost! Last time Akela got told off for not stopping for the compulsory 20 minute lunch stop, so we stopped just outside a lumber mill by a large smouldering. We were then had a large leg back to car park finishing just time.

