



## Beavers Blast Off!!



Our Beaver Colonies have been working towards gaining the Space and Experiment Activity Badges for the first part of the spring term. Sorry parents, more sewing practice coming your way soon.

For the Space Badge Beavers tried to find out more about the night sky and our solar system by means of a mini planetarium and various games such as locating and ordering pictures of planets in the dark which was the favourite as it involved torches.

Beavers explored the Moon and the International Space Station via a Virtual Reality Experience led by Raz, a Google Technology Ambassador who visited the Beaver meetings. This was interesting to observe as we had lots of hand and arm gestures when Beavers tried to reach out and touch the images.

For weeks, various attempts were also made to spot stars outside the centre but thick cloud cover has prevented us from seeing a single star. Typical! We will keep on trying!

A Pinocchio themed District Beaver Party took place on the first Saturday of February. Beavers made puppets on stings, decorated biscuits with a face and a long nose, made various flying and jumping beetles and played games. The party ended with a

production of Pinocchio which gave the audience plenty of jokes to smile about.

Thank you to all parents who helped us out that afternoon.



## HMS Belfast (Take 2)



Cubs who had missed out on their sleep-over on HMS Belfast in October (due to an electrical fault on board) travelled to London on a Saturday in early February for a second go.

We met at Claygate station and caught the 4 o'clock train to Waterloo. After a walk along the South Bank with a break to eat our packed tea at the Tate Modern, we arrived at HMS Belfast.

Following a short wait to collect our overnight bags, kindly transported from Claygate to London by David Huddart in the mini bus, we were able to get the mess deck setup ready for our overnight stay. Cubs were able to choose which bunks they preferred and then after getting ready for bed, we all watched a film called 'Big Hero 6' which was very funny.

Following an excellent night's sleep, we were all ready for breakfast in the Walrus Café, which is named after the sea plane that was once carried by HMS Belfast.

After a good breakfast (and lots of coffee for the Leaders) we were lead to a special room where a member of the staff gave a talk about the History of HMS Belfast (including the Arctic



Convoys and involvement in D-Day) and the life of the crew who lived and served on board.

After that it was time for an explore around the ship but first we were invited to salute the flag at the ceremony of the colours (this happens every morning when a Royal Navy ship is in harbour).



## HMS Belfast (Take 2)



gift shop and a quick sit down in the Arctic Mess Deck to eat our packed lunches, we were back on the South Bank for our hike back to Waterloo.

This time we had a quick detour over the Millennium (wobbly) Bridge and back.

It was quite a cold day so Cubs wisely warmed themselves up by running around and playing at the playground at the London Eye, before we all caught the train back to Claygate.

Cubs and Leaders even had the energy to play games on the journey back (Top Trumps were the order of the day) which was a great finish to our excellent trip.



# A Year in 1st Claygate Scouts



The end of 2016 means time to put together the troop log. This is a collection of everything the scouts did last year and is submitted as part of the Esher district top troop trophy. In their own words, what follows is a brief look into some of the activities that the scouts took part in ... of course we also had a frost camp, an Easter expedition to the Peak District, GAW, District camp, summer camp, a sailing weekend on the Solent, Kayaking training with a trip to Symonds Yat, a day hike and a night hike, but you will have read all about those in these pages already!

## Bowling – February 2016

We went bowling, even though most people disappeared to the arcade! The bowling was fun and the vending machines were really really cool but really expensive.

## Indoor Cooking – March 2016 & October 2016

Pure scouting. Conduct the heat!

Testing simple cooking skills: cutting vegetables; put some oil in the pan; FRY!

Food tasted good, however it would have been better if we had more of each ingredient.

Ready steady cook was on the 10<sup>th</sup> October and we had to set up the tables so that we could make food with stoves, pans, jugs etc. We cooked in patrols. We made chicken with vegetables and spices. It tasted very nice but next time I think we should make a sweet dish and possibly make a fire!



## Model Making (Planes) – March 2016

We used the instruction kit for the model planes to create four different types of plane. If we had stronger airplanes they would work better. After, we threw them off the balcony trying to hit a cone.

I was very excited. I liked the building of the plane (it was fun).

It was so much fun. We learnt to work as a TEAM.



## Claygate Clean Up – April 2016

We cleaned up just at the bottom of the bridge (over the A3 at the end of Coverts Road) to help



# A Year in 1st Claygate Scouts



the environment out. We found a rabbit's skull and a gnome! I thought that Claygate bridge was very messy, so it was good to clean it up.

## Stretcher Making – May 2016

We made stretchers to carry our PLs (patrol leaders) around. We had to get two poles and lots of rope to put a stretcher together. If it didn't work you wouldn't be able to support your patrol leader. We liked dropping our PLs and building items.



## Cooking on Fires – June 2016

We lit fires with a burning log. We cooked sausages but it was hard to keep the fire going. The sausages were tasty but it would have been better to have bacon.

## Archery – June 2016

Archery was a fun activity that we did for our creative badge (actually not, but never mind!) on 20<sup>th</sup> June. Tom is really really REALLY bad at archery. We did this at the scout centre for like two minutes. Great fun. Jolly good show.

Archery was great, we did it around the back of the scout hut. Everyone took part it was great fun (next time I would prefer to shoot).



## Rafting – July 2016

The week before rafting, we had to build the rafts with staves and empty water buckets. We used square lashings to hold it together and we spent the whole night constructing them.

When we finally got onto the water (a week later) the rafts didn't exactly work. They fell apart in an instant,



# A Year in 1st Claygate Scouts



so instead we made a rope swing. It was fun because we made it and most them didn't work, so we learnt a lesson.

## Night Hike Training – September/October 2016

Before the night hike, we had to do training because the night hike is very hard. We had to do stuff like saving knocked out people. CPR was like pushing on metal. Compass work was impossible at first, but then in the end I finally understood it! (sort of).



## Jamboree on the Internet – October 2016

Some scouts participated in a Jamboree (via an internet chat room hosted by the international scout association). The theme was Italy and we made our own pizza. Everyone had very interesting toppings, for example Tom had a mountain of cheese and everything, and cheese stuffed crust.



We connected with other scouts around the world and used different languages communicating with scouts in Germany, Mexico and New Zealand. We got to meet interesting characters.

## Making an Obstacle Course – October 2016

We made obstacles using staves, ropes, tables, benches and hoops. We raced through the obstacles in our teams. In the end, the **"flying pigs" won**. Making the obstacle course took some thought and doing it was fun. A prize for the winning team would make it better next time!

## Indoor Climbing – November 2016

When we got into our harnesses, some people needed help putting them on, but it didn't take too long and we soon got onto the climbing. The indoor climbing was really fun because as part of it you could do either football or volleyball as well.



So to summarise, 2016 was good, but would have been better with bacon (and the flying pigs). Something to keep in mind as we plan for another great year.



# Scouts Summer Camp

## 23-30 July



By Dan C, Gus T, Tom H, Mackenzie B, Louis E, Joe C, Jack C and Colm M.

### Saturday

On Saturday morning we met at 8.00am at the Scout HQ, then we embarked on a great journey to somewhere called "The North". *[Strictly speaking the East Midlands, as we were on our way to The Peak District. A clear journey saw us arriving at Thorpe Mill Farm just after lunchtime and the afternoon was spent pitching tents (almost 30 in all), setting up camp and keeping everyone hydrated in the baking sunshine. The evening saw dinner preparation, followed by the inaugural inspection for points towards the patrol competition.]*

### Sunday

At 7.30am, we were rudely awakened by David Huddart with a dustbin lid and a wooden spoon. "Morning happy campers", he screamed at the top of his voice. Then we had breakfast and got on with building camp gadgets *[tables, benches, wet pit, etc.]*. Admittedly it took a while, but we still had time to go swimming in the river, it was incredibly cold. We then ate dinner, we had enchiladas. We were all excited, it was our first night of tuck shop.



### Monday

*[The scouts either went to Alton Towers Water Park, or split their day between rock climbing and archery. Activities were then swapped for Tuesday.]*

At 7.00am we were awoken to the now familiar sound of "Good morning happy campers!" only it wasn't David, the usual suspect, but it was Mark. In the morning we cooked bacon rolls for a non-eager patrol, who refused to get out of the tent. After we had inspection and we luckily passed.



At 9.00am we headed away from camp, half of us went to the water park and I would love to tell you about clean toilets and SHOWERS! But ... I can't. So on to rock climbing. We scaled a 10m-ish tall rock face that was at some times challenging to get up, but my group managed to beat the walls with mostly ease. It was an experience and we left feeling like we had gained something. Lunch was a bagel, Wotsits, ham and other sandwichy items.



# Scouts Summer Camp

## 23-30 July



In the afternoon we did archery, which included a competition and shooting bagels. Overall it was a fun and diverse session. Next was lighting fires and cooking dinner, which was pasta and mushroom sauce with chorizo ham. Pudding was meringues with fruit, it all went very well, surprisingly.

### Tuesday

Today we got woken up annoyingly early because we had to do activities. We had to get up and straight into work. Breakfast was bacon and beans, which didn't quite work, and then we had to pack our day sacks and our bench broke, so we tried to fix that. It didn't work.

We went to a place called Alton Towers Water Park, where we went on all the slides. The Master Blaster hurt your bum. After all the swimming, we had a huge meal deal and kept on swimming. After all that swimming, we will have dinner. Hope it will be good.

### Wednesday

*[Two groups of older scouts undertook an overnight hiking expedition covering both the Dove Dale valley and the Manifold Trail.]*

We walked 30km over two days in a group of four with heavy backpacks. We moaned and we got wet. We all (but Tom) had delicious food, I had Chicken Tikka for dinner and had an all day breakfast. I was carrying the heavy tent, it was depressing! My feet went blue and pussy.

### Thursday

*[The rest of the group completed a day hike. Starting from our camp site, the circular route incorporated the Dove Dale valley and surrounding area.]*





# Scouts Summer Camp

## 23-30 July



We started off the hike [and] the first part took about 1hr:30min but only felt around 30 mins. We then had lunch, which was three packets of cheddars and some fat chunks of sausage. The next bit took hours. We met another group and we had the same amount of distance to go. We speeded up and ended up getting back before them.



### Friday

Today was our last full day. We got up later than usual and had some Frosties. Then we got on the minibuses and drove to Poole's Cavern, where we had booked a tour. It was fascinating and interesting, our tour guide told us that Romans and cave men lived there and all the facts about the rocks and what happened there. Then we came back, had lunch and started cleaning the patrol box.

*[Fish & Chips for evening meal, meaning no cooking and no washing up! After final inspections and tuck shop, everyone joined the campfire hosted by our visiting GSL. Following a performance of the legendary "There's a hole in my water container, Dear Hugh, Dear Hugh", everyone was ready for one last hot chocolate and off to bed.]*

### Saturday

*[Final packing up, site inspections and loading of the lorry. Awards for the best patrol going to: Irish Wristwatch (Will B's patrol); best scout to*



# Christmas lights on the Parade



You might think all we do as a Group is attend the event, but we are much more involved.

As the following will show

- We are a member of the Claygate Village Association committee that runs the event
- We collect and return the Christmas trees to Elm Farm in the Group van where they are stored for the year
- We are part of a team that erects and takes down the Christmas trees
- We order and let off the fireworks
- The Scout and Guide Band plays at the event
- We run our stall at the event, which not only raises funds for the Group but also the Cubs normally sell items they have made to raise funds for their chosen charity

This is one way the Group supports the Claygate Community and helps promote the Group.



This year we raised **£1500** for the group and the Cubs raised **£450** for Water Aid

Mark Aulds AGSL



# Fundraising Updates

## Christmas Trees

The Christmas Tree sale is the most important fundraising event that 1st Claygate runs, and thanks to all those who purchased trees and wreaths last year was the most successful ever. We increased our sales by almost **20%**, raising over **£4,500** towards scout funds.



The sale would not be possible without the help of so many parents to help sort and label the trees, and to deliver the trees, so thank you to everyone who participated.

Thanks also to Andy's Gardening Services for arranging to collect and shred the trees afterwards – raising substantial funds for Born Too Soon.



## Christmas Post

As the November nights draw in, the troop turns its attention to the annual Christmas post. Shortly after half term, the older scouts start to research potential charities and present their findings for the troop to vote on. This year's selected charity was Malaria No More, who fund prevention, testing, treatment and education initiatives to fight this deadly disease in Africa.

As Christmas gets closer, the familiar yellow boxes are distributed around the village and the mammoth task of collecting, sorting and delivering well over 2000 cards begins. Thanks to a volunteer army of parents, a conscript army of scouts and one massive spreadsheet, every letter is safely delivered in time for Christmas. In addition to providing a valuable community service, this year's post raised an impressive **£692**. Thanks to all who helped to make this possible.



## Carols at Surbiton Station

The band raised **£1,000** for charity this Christmas too. We played carols at Surbiton station on a Saturday in the run up to Christmas, and then our traditional carols round Claygate where we play through the streets of the village and collect money. After a busy term for the band, it was superb to see band members being willing to take part in this charity fund-raising activity.



## Fireworks 2016

We hope you all enjoyed this family event which raised **£2,187**. This is the second year we have had the bonfire and believe it adds to the evening. From the Groups point of view it requires a lot of planning which includes the following:

- Producing risk assessment
- Informing Fire and Rescue Service
- Informing neighbours
- Ordering fireworks which we get from Johnsons with a great discount
- Ordering food from Nathans Bakery and the Game Larder who also give us a great discount
- Building fire and set setting up in general

The list goes on!

If you are interested in helping with 2017 event or have ideas for improving it in 2017 please let us know. (Debbie Bowles and Mark Aulds AGSL's)



# Group Scout Leader's Update



There never seems to be a good time to write a newsletter article which is a summary as there is always so much going on within the Group and to highlight anything in particular at the risk of missing something is always a concern. I have spent this morning as a marshal for the District Cross Country and was pleased to see so many of our members taking part.

As we move into 2017 I have been busy reporting our numbers on the annual census return to National Headquarters. The Group has retained a consistently high level of membership across the group and this demonstrates the popularity of Scouting and how well the leaders here in Claygate provide for the young people in the Group.

I am not going to dwell on the particular activities from the sections that have occurred as I am sure these will be covered by the individual sections. However, highlights for me are as follows:

- The District Scout night hike with 6 team taking part.
- The Band and others fund raising by providing Carol Singing around the streets in Claygate. We now get requests to be part of peopled Xmas gatherings at their houses.
- Carols round the camp fire was a big success and a great start to Christmas. There was a good mix of carols around the camp fire before returning to The Scout Centre for refreshments and more singing.



We have a number of events coming up:

Band Concert at Holy Trinity Church	24/03/2017
Pop Up Restaurant at the Scout Centre for the Philmont Trip	26/03/2017

Then before we know it, it will be the summer term and all of the outdoor activities will commence.

Hugh Gostling (Group Scout Leader)



## Employer Matching Funding



Many companies have schemes in place where they provide funds to charities that are supported by their employees. The support takes the form of donations from charitable trusts linked to the employer, straight donations where employees support the local charity, or arrangements whereby the employer matches funds raised by the employee, e.g. for running the London Marathon.

A number of parents currently and in the past have supported 1<sup>st</sup> Claygate through their employer schemes. The Group has benefited from this to the tune of several thousand pounds each year.



This is fantastic support for the group, and particularly as we begin to think about fundraising to support the Scout centre extension in 2017 and 2018 any additional support that parents can access would be very gratefully received.

If your employer offers such a scheme and you would like help or advice in applying for funds, please contact the Group Treasurer, Gary Ernest, [treasurer@claygatescouts.org](mailto:treasurer@claygatescouts.org)



# Remembrance Parade



The weather was once again kind to us, as we gathered in the Champion's car park on Hare Lane on a dry and clear Sunday morning. As one of two very important events in the scouting calendar, Remembrance Day draws good attendance from all sections in the group and this year was no exception.

After a last minute check of uniforms, accompanied by hurried tucking in of shirts and a last minute hunt for a spare scarf, everyone was ready. Under the expert command of John Baldwin, the parade formed up behind the band and we were soon on our way for the march to Holy Trinity Church.



Shortly before 11am, the various sections gathered in front of the war memorial, where other Claygate residents joined us in readiness for the 2 minutes silence. As with every year, the worries about who would talk during the service proved to be unfounded, as all the young people showed a respect and understanding of the poignancy of the occasion.

After the wreaths were laid, the group made its way inside the church for a service of remembrance. With 2016 marking the 100th anniversary of the battle of the Somme, the congregation was asked to contemplate some of the key battles. Photographs were also displayed of the war grave sites in France, proving a shocking reminder of the scale of the carnage.

Leaving the church to re-join a clear day in Claygate, with a dry home and a warm lunch not too far away, provided a stark contrast with what the soldiers of the Somme would have faced in 1916. After a final few words, the parade was dismissed and we eagerly dispersed to confirm that the homes and lunches were as dry and warm as we had been hoping, remembering with gratitude those who enabled us to enjoy such comforts.

## <sup>st</sup> 1 Claygate Scout and Guide Band Annual Spring Concert Friday 24 March 2017



Doors - 7.15pm  
Concert - 7.45pm



Holy Trinity Church, Church Road, Claygate. Surrey. KT10 0JP



For details of how to buy tickets please go to:

[www.claygatescouts.org/band.htm](http://www.claygatescouts.org/band.htm)

Adults - £8, Children and Senior Citizens - £4



# Carols around the Camp Fire



We launched into Christmas – and formally ended the last term of 2016 – with a carol service with a Scouting twist! Yes, it was carols ... but round the camp fire too.

It has been a tradition in the Group to hold a carol service in Church. For a variety of reasons that wasn't possible this year. But not to be deterred, scouting pragmatism and innovation took over – and it proved to be a great success.

The evening was led by our own band. To get us underway, there was a candle lit procession through the grounds and woods at Scout HQ, with the camp fire crackling and the band quietly playing Silent Night. We then sang carols round the camp fire and Hugh led a reading so that we all remembered the meaning of Christmas. And the event also coincided with a national event for cubs across the UK to restate their Promise at precisely 19:16 – celebrating 100 years of cub scouting.

Returning through the candlelit pathway, we went back to the Scout Centre for mince pies, mulled wine and refreshments provided superbly well as always by Debbie, Ed and friends. A very Scouting Santa also paid a visit to the Beavers!!!

After the break, the band led us with some great Christmas songs – including a very entertaining "Twelve Days of Christmas" in which everyone entered into the spirit with gusto! Two Scouts gave a great presentation about the chosen charity for the Christmas fund-raising activity. And there were prizes too. Five lucky children each went home with an early £20 Christmas present as winners in the lucky dip; and Lynx pack won a pizza evening in 2017 through having the highest number of cubs at the event



The evening proved to be a great way to end the Scouting year, combining Christmas and Scouting traditions. It was great to see so many people attend and we're planning to make this a new feature in our annual calendar.





# The Lord Mayor's Show 2016

In November the band took part for the second year in a row in the Lord Mayor's Show through Central London. This was a huge event for the band, performing in front of thousands of people through the heart of London.

Nearly 7,000 people take part in the parade itself, along with 200 horses and more than 150 floats. The procession stretches three miles and passes the Mansion House, St Paul's Cathedral and the Royal Courts of Justice before returning to Mansion House via Victoria Embankment.

Once again the weather forecast was poor – and everyone expected to get very wet... But whilst it did rain for part of the parade, it turned out to be not quite as wet as 2015...!!!

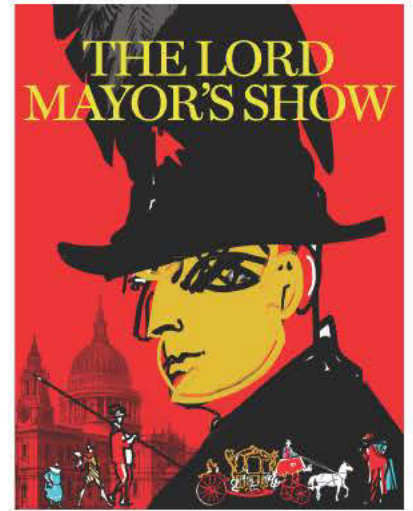
"The band had worked really hard leading up to the parade, with extra rehearsals to ensure our marching and drill was the best it could be" said Robin. "We knew we were ready, but it was a big adventure nonetheless." The band travelled to London by coach, leaving at 07:30am. We made it on time to our muster point (a large and unglamorous underground car park in the City). "We had to wait at the starting point for over 2 hours. The band enjoyed the free cakes (!!!) but it was also great to mingle with all the other bands taking part in the parade, including bands from the Royal Marines, the Guards and the Royal Air Force."



"The atmosphere throughout the day was superb" remembers Robin. "We had our photo taken with Barbara Windsor ... with one young band member saying "was she the lady in the bingo adverts'...! Our time eventually came and we were off. The band sounded great and with all the tall buildings in London the music reverberated around in an

amazing way. As we were marching, the crowd were great – and it was fantastic to hear shouted many times along the way "Come on Claygate". It was a long march, although it passed quickly.

At the half way point, everything stops for lunch – and fortunately the band found someone serving hot chocolate, which was very welcome and warmed us through. The rain kindly held off over lunch. We then reformed for the march back. Robin said "The return march was even better. We'd all relaxed by then and the crowds seemed even bigger. We got a good reception all the way along the parade route. We were all rather soggy – and very tired - by the time we returned to the coach. But the band had performed superbly well and had most certainly made 1<sup>st</sup> Claygate proud."



12 NOVEMBER 2016  
www.lordmayorsshow.london  
020 7392 9456



## Live on the BBC too !!!



The Lord Mayor's Show is filmed live on BBC1. Whilst the programme isn't long enough to film the whole show, you could hear our band playing as we marched passed the Mansion House whilst the BBC presenters were interviewing participants. It's a shame you couldn't see us – but at least we were heard!

In conclusion, Robin said: "It was a fantastic experience and one I think the band really enjoyed. Everyone who took part should feel very proud about how they performed. **Well done band!**"



# Paddlesports 2016/2017



## 2016:

We had a great year of paddlesport at 1<sup>st</sup> Claygate in 2016. We continued to run our usual 1\* and 2\* British Canoeing courses and introduced a flatwater 3\* course.

Our 1\* and 2\* courses were both great successes with 9 out of 9 passing their 1\* and 5 out of 5 completing and passing their 2\*, this included two older scouts who went straight into 2\* and did very well by learning all aspects of the training in a single course.

Our 3\* flatwater course is aimed at those who have their 2\*. It is an award that takes a serious amount of dedication to achieve and I am happy to say that we have five explorer scouts who are very close to achieving this award – hopefully 2017 will be the year!

## Plans for 2017:

We have already organised a lot of our paddlesport for 2017 and are looking forward to running even more paddling opportunities for young people.

This year we have managed to open two 1\* courses due to the high demand from our growing Scout Troop and Explorer section. We are also continuing with our 2\* course and our 3\* Flatwater course.

Furthering this we are taking our 3\* trainees on a weekend to paddle the River Dart in Devon. This trip will really progress their skills towards their 3\* assessments. We have also started to implement a new British Canoeing scheme called 'Cadet Coach'. This is aimed at

young people aged between 14 and 16 (perfectly suited to Explorer Scouts) and begins the learning bracket of coaching. Following this Cadet Coaches can move on to their British Canoeing Level 1 Coach Award which is for those aged 16 and above.

## How to get involved:

We aim to offer as much paddlesport to young people as possible and therefore if you

are interested please take a look at our notice board in the main hall, which shows upcoming events, past events, the coaching team and contact details.

If you would like any more information, or are interested in helping at all please get in touch via [1stclaygatepaddlesport@gmail.com](mailto:1stclaygatepaddlesport@gmail.com).

Finally, I would just like to say thank you to everyone who has helped to provide these wonderful opportunities to our scouts and explorers and hope they all continue to help and encourage participation in such a fantastic sport.

