



Beavers Fun Afternoon

June and July marked outdoor fun time Beaver style with The Esher District Fun Afternoon and our Own 1st Claygate end of term Beaver Party offering a wide range of activities.

The Pirate themed District Beaver Fun Afternoon activities kicked off after The Opening Ceremony. Beavers made a treasure chest, bandanas, belts, swords and eye patches that made them look the part and then participated in panning for gold, a treasure hunt with obstacle course, walk the plank bouncy slide and shooting for gold.

To keep the hunger at bay our pirates cooked dough twists on a campfire topped with icing sugar. What more could a hungry pirate ask for?

Around mid afternoon the beaver district groups competed for the best finish in Tug of War. Claygate was very close to winning the top spot and all our Beavers gave it their best effort including the leaders who could not join in but their vocal encouragement was deafening!

To end the afternoon, John Baldwin lit an impressive looking campfire for the Beavers to enjoy while singing along to some favourite songs.



Beavers End of Term Party



The end of term party at our Scout Centre was great fun and the weather was fantastic so the Beavers got wet, wetter and soaking wet trying to avoid water blasters while keeping cups of water balanced on their heads.

We were very thankful to all the young people helping us out that afternoon, some as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. Activities such as bow and arrows, rocket throwing, tin can alley, following the blind string trail were enjoyed by all.



Esher District Cub Camp

16-18th June



The camp had a Medieval theme this year, and so when Cubs arrived on Friday evening on The Ridge, Polapes Camp Site, they found the tents had been given names like Thomas Becket and Eleanor of Aquitaine...

On Saturday after our first nights camping, we had a hearty breakfast then went along to the opening ceremony and flag break. After this, Cubs could go around Polyapes campsite in friendship groups to do bases like Jousting, riding a bucking bronco, Archery, brass rubbing, caving, tabard making, black and white site photo studio, coconut shy, obstacle course and many more.

We had a break for lunch then off Cubs went again to find more great bases. It was a really hot sunny day, so the water bombs fired at Cubs by a huge trebuchet was very popular!



1 - Eleanor of Aquitaine (1122-1204) was one of the most powerful and wealthiest women in western Europe during the High Middle Ages. She was Queen of France (1137-1152) and then Queen of England (1154-1189). She was the mother of Richard the Lionheart.



After a hot busy afternoon, Cubs set up their tents ready for the evening followed by a tent inspection then off we went to our Medieval banquet. Cubs wore the tabards they had made and everyone looked great... and our 1st Claygate Medieval pennant was flying along with the other Groups.

After our food, we went along to the camp fire lead by Hathi (John Baldwin) which was really good fun and some of our group even joined in stirring 'purple stew'...

After a good night's sleep, we had breakfast then went to flag break. Cubs were amazed when they were greeted with birds of prey, getting ready to do a display later which started straight after flag break.

After this, Cubs came back to camp for some lunch and to help take tents down and pack the van.



Esher District Cub Camp 16-18th June



After the camp closing ceremony, there was just enough time to award prizes to the winners of the camp competition (well done Joan of Arc tent) it was time for tired but happy Cubs to go home for a nice rest.

We hope Cubs had a great camp and thank you to everyone who helped.



Summer Camp



It's April and the first spring sunshine is bathing Pen-y-fan with warmth and light. "Yes, this will do nicely" I think, as I complete my recce of the Brecon Beacons with a stroll around the famed horseshoe. Perhaps a week in South Wales might give us some nice weather after all.

Three months later and I'm returning home after a week's camping on the eastern edge of the national park. My boots have just started their three day journey from "back from camp" to "clean and dry", as I think back over the week that's just been

We meet at the scout centre early on Saturday morning and load twenty two excited scouts into the minibuses. Our destination is the Grange Trekking centre where a field has our name on it for the next seven days. The location is beautiful, with a small river running along the bottom edge of the field and the impressive Offa's Dyke looming up the other side of the valley.

Within a couple of hours, our tent village has been pitched and we're settling in to our temporary home. Sunday is spent putting the finishing touches to camp and constructing gadgets such as benches, tables and mug trees from assorted sections of timber. By 3pm, the scouts are ready to take on the challenge of Sunday dinner cooked on an open fire. This required much preparation of food and fire, but culminated in a very impressive collection of roast potatoes that certainly met with approval from the leaders who were supporting each patrol.

The next few days saw the scouts completing a rota of activities, including hiking, horse riding and archery.

Hiking in the Brecon Beacons

By far everyone's favourite part of hiking was having to get out of bed promptly at 7am and make sandwiches ready for the day. As a huge treat though, Katie and Naomi did sterling work rustling up bacon sandwiches for the group to eat on the drive out to the start point.

Each group completed a walk to the top of Pen y Fan (886m) with a quick



Summer Camp



stop on Corn Du (873m) along the way. For our older scouts, there was a chance to extend the walk to complete the rest of the horseshoe with ascents of Cribyn (795m) and Fan y Big (719m) before descending to the valley and back up the other side to return to the minibus.

For many this was the first time they had ever seen, let alone contemplated walking up, a hill that looked so big. For our older scouts this was a taste of the kind of walk they might experience when they move up to Explorers. Without exception, the whole group did extremely well, rising to the challenge without complaint and hopefully enjoying the sense of achievement as they reached the summit.

As with the recce day, the weather was extremely kind to us for two thirds of the time and our main concern was not getting sunburned or dehydrated. The final day restored our faith in the Welsh weather though, with low cloud, persistent rain and hill fog. A great opportunity to experience first hand why we spend so much time teaching compass bearings and map reading.

Horse Riding at The Grange

Having walked to the highest peaks, our hosts at the Grange Trekking centre offered a chance for our group to explore the lower slopes of the Beacons on horseback. For many this was their first experience of riding and the guides introduced them to the horses, whilst showing them how to care for the animals and saddle up.

With a deep breath and a bit of encouragement, everyone overcame their nervousness to climb on board and take their horse for a ride. The instructors took the group for a walk along the valley before returning to the farm to step gratefully back to the ground.

Master-at-Arms

As with previous years, we were able to offer the scouts a chance to learn and practice both their archery and air rifle skills. This year our site offered a perfect location, with a separate field on the other side of the river that had a steep hill at the back to catch any loose arrows or pellets.

During the week, each activity group spent a morning practising their skills and shooting targets to earn points for the inter-patrol competition.

Town Visit and Swimming

Offering a break from the more strenuous activities and a chance to have a hot shower, most of the troop visited the local town of Abergavenny on Wednesday. After a couple of hours to investigate the town, the nearby leisure centre braced itself for an onslaught of damp and muddy scouts. Once cleaned up, the troop descended on the pool - an afternoon session that the over 50's aquarobics class won't forget in a



Summer Camp



hurry.

Assistant Patrol Leaders' Expedition

For an intrepid group of five APLs, Wednesday brought a different challenge, with the chief scout's gold award expedition. This is an unaccompanied overnight hike, with the group dropped off in the middle of the Welsh countryside and navigating their way to a camp site at Llanthony Priory, a ruined abbey a few miles from our main camp site.

Despite some tricky forest paths, the group successfully navigated the course without getting too lost and were soon back with the main camp on Thursday afternoon. The only remaining challenge being how to dry their wet gear for the rest of the camp.

Striking Camp

After a week of variable conditions, the forecast for our final day was not good. Friday morning started with leaden skies and a few spots of rain, but we did manage to hold a large game of volleyball whilst the shoot-off for the archery competition took place.

By late morning, the pattern for rest of the day was established, with a heavy drizzle that soaked into everything. The afternoon was a bit of a slog as everyone cleared up camp and packed away wet tents. By late afternoon, the cavalry arrived in the shape of Hugh Gostling and Mark Aulds who had driven down the lorry for the return of all our kit.

Demonstrating the wide variety of skills required of a group scout leader, Hugh and Mark organised a BBQ for thirty people in the pouring rain and led the entertainment as we all crammed into a mess tent for dinner. Going above and beyond the call of duty, Hugh even showed his shepherding prowess as he encouraged a stray sheep to leave our field at about midnight.

The final flag break was a chance to announce the results of the hotly contested patrol competition which was won by "The Leon in Striped Pyjamas" patrol, followed by "Trench Towel Joey", "Bee Low" and "Still Un-named" in 2nd to 4th places respectively. Congratulations also go to Ben D as best PL/APL, Ben F as best newcomer and Hannah W as best scout. A final honourable mention to Jack C for the "Attention to detail" award and Joey McM for the "Desperate measures" award. You'll need to ask them for the details.

Welcome Home

A final thank you to all the parents and volunteers who greeted us home and helped to first hang up and then subsequently pack away a mountain of wet tents and equipment. It's so much easier when you have an army of helpers, so your time is very much appreciated.



Scouts Gold Award Expedition to the South Downs



On the 17th/18th June, a group of seven intrepid scouts headed for the South Downs for a 23km hike, with an overnight camp near Poynings. Despite the thermometer hitting 30C and baking sunshine all weekend, the group met the challenge head on. Among many new experiences was the taste of rehydration salts mixed with water, prompting the response "nothing tastes worse than this except parsnips". Read on to hear all about their adventures.



Planning

First we all plotted the coordinates given to us, then we swapped and checked both maps. The coordinates took us to an area near Brighton called Ditchling Beacon. Finally we did the route card, we put down coordinates of each point, name, estimated time it would take to get there from the last point and distance from last point.

Packing

Obviously we had to pack our bags (65/75l). But what do we need to pack you may ask? Well we needed quite a lot: 2 days worth of clothes (and layers - for all conditions rain or shine), water (A LOOOOT OF WATER, heavy, heavy water), sleeping mat, sleeping bag. That's just personal kit ()! We also needed our food, tents (3x carried between us), first aid kits, survival bags, primuses (3x), fuel, maps and compasses and the all important paperwork - especially the "we're allowed to be here" sheet.

Setting Off

We were taken in the Minibus for an hour and three quarters, then were dropped off near the car park and had to take another car to get to the actual drop-off point as the Minibus couldn't fit. We said our goodbyes and set off.

It was really hot, and we had to eat lunch next to a golf course because there was no shade anywhere else. It was mostly flat walking on paths which was lucky because the packs were very heavy. We took a detour at the first point because we thought it would be faster. We did have to cross a big road near the end, but luckily there wasn't any traffic.

When we got there it took us a while to find the sign-in desk because it didn't exist! We eventually found the the owner and she took us to our camp-site.

Overnight Camp

We set up camp and started to get a fire going using flint and steel. Alex and Jasper set up the primuses and started to boil water for Boil in the bag dinner.



Scouts Gold Award Expedition to the South Downs



After eating we tried to make the fire really big ! - so we got lots of kindling and leaves, logs and sticks and made the biggest fire we could. After the day's walking we were all tired and went to bed quite early. We had to get up early on Sunday to make sure that we were able to finish the walk the next day to ensure that we would get home at a sensible time.

It was a good evening and a relaxing evening at the campsite.

Striking Camp

On Sunday Morning we woke up just before 7:00 and lit our stoves to make breakfast. The food was ready made in a bag, so we just had to heat it up in boiling water. After breakfast, we took down our tents and packed our backpacks for the long hike.

Finishing

On Sunday morning we all packed our bags and headed off for a long trek back to the mini bus. On the way to Bramber Castle, we encountered a very steep hill including lots of steps, uneven ground and high temperatures. At the top of the hill we were treated to an amazing view where we could take lots of pictures. About 2 miles from Bramber Castle, we were all exhausted so we had a 10 minute stop to regain our energy and have a drink. Once we had seen the mini bus, we were all relieved because we were tired out and hungry. When we sat down Mark offered us some ice cream and crisps.



Philmont



At this year's Summer Expedition, fifteen of our Explorers completed very demanding treks through the Sangre de Cristo Range of the U.S. Rocky Mountains. The Explorers were the guests of the Boy Scouts of America at their premier high adventure base, Philmont Scout Ranch, in Cimarron, New Mexico. The Explorers faced extreme physical, mental and emotional challenges earning the coveted Philmont *Arrowhead Award* on completion. It was a fulfilling, if not always pleasant experience, and one we know will in subtle ways influence the rest of their lives.

Philmont spans 220 square miles of unspoilt wilderness making it the largest youth camp in the world serving nearly one million participants since 1938. The Explorers, who were divided into two separate Crews, covered 75 miles of rugged trails over 11 days through bear, rattlesnake and cougar territory, ascending mountain peaks that exceeded 3,500 metres, and braving frequently adverse weather conditions whilst carrying everything they needed to survive in heavy rucksacks.

They resupplied for food only twice and used natural water sources along the way. Moving from camp to camp each day, the Crews often enjoyed backcountry programmes provided by Philmont's staff, including historical interpretation and storytelling, logging and spar pole climbing, muzzle loaded rifle shooting, metal forging, mining demonstrations and gold prospecting, rock climbing, running a challenge course, horseback riding, and folk music entertainment with sing-alongs. The Explorers also laboured several hours on a conservation project that taught them about the the upkeep of Philmont's ecosystem and its modern forestry practices.

Each of our two Crews was led by an Explorer leadership corps comprising an overall Crew Leader, a *Guia* who took responsibility for conservation practices, and a Chaplain's Aide who acted as a morale officer. Other Explorers took the roles of Crew Reporter and Expedition Cultural Attaché. These young leaders and everyone in their Crews met their responsibilities with exemplary effort and skill. They were a credit to UK Scouting abroad.

Most of the time on the trail was spent in wilderness isolation, but there were many opportunities for Scouting fellowship also. One Crew shared their itinerary with a U.S. Scout Troop from industrial Northern Ohio with whom they formed a strong bond. The other encountered Crews from New York to California and was met by Philmont's General Manager in the backcountry, who honoured them with commemorative coins for having travelled such a distance. This summer's Expedition amounted to a Scouting pilgrimage.



Sailing Weekend



Discovery Sailing Project is a sail training organisation based on the Hamble river near Southampton which offers the opportunity for young people to experience offshore sailing and to learn about all aspects of yachting (including the cooking and washing up!).

A group of scouts travelled by minibus down to Southampton to join the crew on board the yacht 'Discovery' on the Friday evening. Everyone was issued with oilskins and found a bunk on board after helping to stock the yacht with provisions needed for the weekend.

We set sail after a cooked breakfast the next morning, making our way down the Hamble and out into Southampton Water and the Solent. The scouts helped crew the yacht, all taking a turn at the helm and learning the basics of sailing and navigations. The winds were good and after a good sail and lunch afloat we headed for Cowes where we spend the night.

The forecasted rain happily arrived overnight and was gone by morning. The wind had picked up and we had exciting sailing conditions for the return journey. The skipper and mates tested their own skills by sailing up the Hamble and on to the mooring without using the engine which was impressive and required full participation by the scouts.

We cleaned the yacht and headed home after a very enjoyable weekend and a great introduction to sailing.



Scoutabout 2017



Friday 7th July – 6pm; the beginning of a fine, hot weekend – and 15 scouts and 4 leaders gathered at the Scout Centre for the journey to the South of England Showground at Ardingley in Sussex. With wristbands on and the van packed with all the food and equipment for a weekend camp, we were off to join 6000 Scouts and Guides for a weekend jam packed with activities at Scoutabout 2017 – the scout equivalent of Bazzaz and Scram.

On arrival at the Showground we joined the rest of Esher District at their allocated campsite, unloaded the van, and set up our site for the weekend. The scouts were then free to explore the site, and join the crowd in the arena for the opening ceremony and fireworks. For the Scouts this camp is more like a District Camp as the leaders do the cooking, and all the scouts are required to do is the washing up, (and eat the food !!)

There are a huge variety of activities available over the weekend – everybody who comes is asked to provide an activity - so along with bought in activities there is something for everybody – from a caving system built from straw bales, a climbing wall, car, bus and quad bike driving, a diving pool, a massive aerial runway, to shooting, archery, lots (and lots) of craft activities, and - Esher District's contribution – a space hopper obstacle course. There are three activity sessions over the weekend where the scouts have the opportunity to take part in whatever activities they choose, and while inevitably there are big queues at some of the major activities, there are many smaller ones with little or no queues at all. The weather for the weekend was glorious, making water activities very popular, especially the "Dunk Tank ", where the queue to be dunked never seemed to get any shorter.



Saturday afternoon saw a fly past by two World War 2 planes and the evening brought entertainment on the main stage. Sunday afternoon brought the Closing Ceremony, where due to the heat the Scouts were not required to wear full uniform. During the ceremony the flags of all the participating Scout Troops and Guide Units are paraded into the arena –

an impressive sight indeed - which was led this time by our very own 1st Claygate Scout and Guide Band and Hannah carried the 1st Claygate Troop Flag. This year we were also introduced to the Surrey Contingent Leaders for the World Scout Jamboree to be held in the USA in 2019, before the event was finally drawn to a close.

Due to some impressive logistics and hard work by everybody getting our camp site packed up and the van loaded before the closing ceremony, we were able to walk quickly to the minibus after the end of the Closing Ceremony and leave the site promptly for the return to Claygate.



Many thanks to Mark Aulds, David Huddart and Ingrid Baker for supporting the Troop at this event – without you it would not have been possible.

Katie Ernest





Night Hike



The district night hike is one of our favourite events in the Troop calendar and this year we entered two competition teams into the event along with three training teams, which were accompanied by leaders. The location changes every year and this time we were at Holmwood near Dorking. The 8 mile course was not as tough as some in terms of ups and downs but was very wooded and tricky to navigate, as the competition teams discovered! The troop had spent the last few weeks honing their map work skills and they were certainly needed to get round this route. We also had to deal with incidents at the check points including problem solving and first aid challenges. After a night of adventure all the teams eventually made it back safely and we arrived back in Claygate at around 2.30 am for a sleepover. Inevitably it took a while for everyone to settle down and a few were up earlier than necessary the following morning. Clearly they were not tired enough – maybe we need a longer course next year!



A Busy Term for the Band Begins at Gilwell...



The band began the autumn term by returning for the second year in a row to perform at the Gilwell reunion. We were asked to play at this national event by Scout HQ. The reunion was established to mark the occasion of the first Wood Badge course in 1919. The event has run since 1921 every year (except for four years during the Second World War) and is an opportunity for adults in Scouting to experience an active and educational weekend and to meet up with friends old and new from across the globe. The band performed very well, and to a large and appreciative crowd. The feedback was very positive – and it was great to be able to put on a good show in front of the central Scout HQ team.

Looking ahead to the term, the main event is once again the Lord Mayor's Show through central London on Saturday 11 November, where the band is taking part for the third year in succession. We're hoping for drier weather this year...! And the following day we will be proud to lead the Group through the Village as part of the Remembrance Day parade.

Finally, we are looking forward to the band's busiest part of the year, supporting a range of Christmas events in and around the village.





Christmas Trees



The sale and delivery of Christmas trees has been one of the biggest fundraisers for 1st Claygate for many years. We hope that this year's sale will beat last year's record of 300 trees and support the work on the new scout extension, Project Merlin.

This year's sale will start on 5th November. Orders may be placed online via the scout's website (www.claygatescouts.org), or by completing the order form which will be circulated to all Claygate residents in early November. Trees will be delivered free on either 2nd, 9th, 16th December, and as in previous years a free collection and shredding service will be provided by Andy's Gardening early in the new year.



This year, for the first time, we will also be selling Christmas cards. These show two scenes of Claygate in winter, and we hope that many parents will be keen to purchase. The cards will be on sale at £2.50 for 6, and will be available via the website (delivered via the weekly meetings) or at the fireworks event on 4th November.



Shopping Fundraising

Did you know that you could help raise donations for the Scout Group for free whilst you are shopping on your favourite websites?

As we focus on raising funds for the extension to the Scout Hut we have joined up with Easy Fundraising to be able to benefit from your shopping.

For more information see the information to the right, go to the following webpage:

easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/1stclaygatescoutgroup/

or scan the QR code:



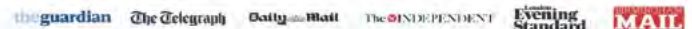
 easyfundraising.org.uk
feel good shopping

Help out when you check out

Collect FREE donations for **1st Claygate Scout Group** every time you shop online.



Join, shop and raise here:
easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/1stclaygatescoutgroup/

As featured in: 

<http://www.claygatescouts.org>



Carols Around the Campfire

Friday 15th December
6:45pm for a 7:00pm start
The Scout Centre, Claygate



All members of the Group - parents, family and friends - are welcome to come along and enjoy this end of year celebration. The evening will include:

- A candlelight procession through the woods (do bring a torch)
- Carol singing round the camp fire, accompanied by our own Scout & Guide Band
- Santa is expected to make an appearance for the Beavers too

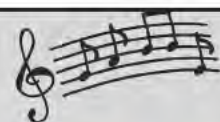
After the campfire, the celebrations return to the Scout Centre (from about 7:40pm). Mulled wine, soft drinks and refreshments will be served. And then we'll continue with the event :

- A photo presentation of the 2017 Scouting Year and all that's been achieved
- A presentation of this year's chosen Christmas charity by the Scouts, with a collection
- And more music and festive singing accompanied by the band – including a return of the very popular "Twelve Days of Christmas"

We hope this will be an enjoyable and festive way to end our 2017 Scouting Year. Please do come along – with parents and friends too.

NOTE: THE FIRST HALF OF THIS EVENT WILL BE OUTSIDE. SO PLEASE WEAR APPROPRIATE CLOTHING

Calling all musicians



Our band is looking for new people to join – whether you already play an instrument or are interested in learning one. The band runs a senior band for accomplished musicians, a junior band and a training band for those just beginning. Rehearsals take place on a Friday evening at Scout HQ. Band membership is open to all involved in the Scouting (cubs and older) and Guiding movements in Claygate.



If you are interested in joining, or just wish to find out more information, please contact Robin Wilkinson, our Band Leader :
bandmaster@claygatescouts.org.



Help needed to erect Christmas trees for Christmas Lights - 18th Nov



In preparation for the Christmas lights the Group is involved in the erection of the Christmas trees on the Parade and the Green. We are hoping **parents/older Scouts / Explorer Scouts** will help with this important support to the community.

The trees are to be erected on **18th November** and it involves changing bulbs and actually putting the trees in the holders. Help is required from **9:30 to about 13:00 hrs** and even if you can help for only an hour your help would be most appreciated. (Meet outside Boots in Hare Lane)

If you are able to help please register on the Group web site or if you would like more information please contact Mark Aulds on 01372 810406.

Help raise over £4000 for the Group - Delivery of Christmas trees

Have you got a van/people carrier and/or a few hours to spare?

To raise funds the Group sell Christmas trees, which we deliver through out Claygate and Esher. To help with this we need extra vans/ bodies to help with the delivery. The dates when help is required are as follows **2nd, 9th & 16th December**.

If you have a van/people carrier and can help on any of these dates, please contact Mark Aulds on 01372 810406 for further information

If you can help with the deliveries please register on the group web site.



Help needed to take down Christmas trees - 6th Jan

The Group is involved in taking down the Christmas trees on the Parade and the Green.

We are hoping **parents/older Scouts /Explorer Scouts** will help with this important support to the community. Help is required from **9:30 to about 13:00 hrs** and even if you can help for only an hour your help would be most appreciated.

(Meet outside Boots in Hare Lane) If you are able to help please register on the Group web site or if you would like more information please contact Mark Aulds on 01372 810406



**I'D LOVE TO HELP AT SCOUTS BUT...
I'M NOT FREE AT THE RIGHT TIMES
& I DON'T HAVE THE SKILLS TO HELP.**

AS IF !

Come and join in the Adventure



scouts.org.uk/activesupport

Scan here to email us:



Hello SASU (Scout Active Support Unit)!!

We've started a new section called the Scout Active Support Unit. This section allows people who cannot make the full-time commitment to be a leader (but want to support the Group) to give their time to Scouting on a flexible basis. So, if you've seen us doing things you'd like to have a go at or wondered how you can get involved, this is the answer!

- Scout Active Support is for anyone over the age of 18 years and there is no need to have been involved in Scouting previously. We'll teach you everything you need to know and you'll be surprised how many skills you already have. If you have been involved in Scouting before, it's a great way to stay actively involved in the Group.
- You can volunteer as much or as little as you like. It might be that you would like to help with two or three activities a year (like Christmas Tree selling or helping to run a base at the Scouts District Night Hike) or it may be that you'd like to do a bit more.
- How much you volunteer really is up to you... we won't ask for any more than you offer to do, and that's a promise.
- We have a regular meeting on the first Thursday of each month (term time only) at Claygate Scout Centre or a local pub. You don't need to come to all the meetings to be part of the section, but it's nice to catch up every now and again.
- There is no requirement to make the Scouts Promise to join or to wear Scout Leaders uniform at events or activities.
- The only other things needed are a short training course (Module 1) and a current DBS check (the Scout Group can arrange for these at no cost to you).

If you would like to join the adventure by becoming a member of the 1st Claygate Scout Active Support Unit, please contact Dave Creigh by emailing scout.active.support@claygatescouts.org.

Membership Requirements



I regularly state to parents of young people joining the Group, or moving up within the Group, about the requirement for parents to assist with a minimum of two fundraising events a year, as a membership requirement. This is usually stated at the end of a lot of other information and consequentially may not have been well explained at that time. Thus, I have set out the process and the benefits in this article. This is particularly relevant as we develop out plans to extend the building.

As a **voluntary** organisation, the Group relies on help from parents and supporters in order to deliver the programme of activities, experiences and training. This can be help on meeting nights, weekend activities (camps, Claygate clean up, etc), transport and the like and these are usually requested by the section leaders. It is hoped that these are enjoyed by both the young people and volunteers and that this help is offered in order to assist the young people to get the most out of an activity.

In addition, as a voluntary organisation we have to be self-funding and this is basically achieved on the basis of subscriptions, but this only provides the base level of Scouting. In terms of providing 'added value' to the sections and in order to fund the level of equipment replacement programme required to meet the Group's needs and any other developments, our finances have been set around a level of fund raising over and above subscriptions.

Whilst we seek grant funding wherever we can, we are very fortunate to have a number of small teams of people who do all of the organising in advance of a number of events during the year.

Our expenditure plans are based on the following events:

Event Type	Number of Events
Jumble Sales (January, April, September)	3
Plant Sale	1
Flower Show	1
Christmas Trees	1
Christmas Lights (including Grand Draw)	1
Summer Fete	1
Number of events	8

With the current membership standing at approximately 210 families if everyone met the requirement of 2 fund raising events we should have about 35 helpers at every event which unfortunately is not the case.

I hope that by making it clear that there is a membership requirement to help with the fundraising events, that the right level of help will be forthcoming in the future for the fundraising events.

This is quite separate from the requests made for help with the sections, which is seen as normal parental support.

Thank you in advance for your support for the Group

Hugh Gostling

Group Scout Leader

Advanced Canoeing Weekend



2017 has been another busy year for the Claygate paddlesport team with 3 courses been run across the summer as well as various trips and courses.

1*

With growing demand to participate in paddlesport the team decided to open up two separate 1* courses this year to keep up with the growing demand of scouts interested in taking up an introduction to kayaking. Both courses ran through the summer with sessions run at the river Thames and local swimming pool allowing Scouts to explore the fundamental core skills, we are pleased to confirm that all participants managed to achieve their 1* award as well as having a lot of fun along the way.

3*

With a growing number of scouts managing to achieve their 1*&2* kayaking awards in recent years the natural progression has moved towards achieving the 3* kayaking award. This year the team elected to run training themselves in house with a growing demand for advancement and more training. All members have benefited greatly from the sessions at the river, lido and local swimming pool, practicing and honing their skills to enable them to move onto white water as part of their next challenge. Good progress has been made with two Scouts managing to achieve their 3* award a recent trip. As the leadership team continue to gain further qualifications it is hoped that more trips will be offered allowing the scouts to develop their skills ultimately allowing them to move onto assessment.

Trips

Various trips have been arranged and undertaken this year including a first taste of whitewater for some at Lee Valley, the 2012 Olympic man made whitewater facility. Two notable trips down to the River Dart in Devon allowing the scouts to gain an insight into paddling their first natural whitewater river and the challenges that rivers can present. Finally the 3* course members also attended a Foundation Safety Rescue Training (FSRT) day at Phoenix canoe club in north London providing them with a vital insight into river safety and rescue techniques.



Equipment

The group has continued to invest in the success of the paddlesport activities offered by the team each year, of particular note this year was the purchase of three whitewater kayaks for the 3* course members to use. These will be of great use and have already been put into action on several occasions.

Leadership Team

The paddlesport team has enjoyed a successful and very busy year with great successes with the courses offered. Various training courses continue to be undertaken in the back ground with a view to further developing the professional level of coaching and leadership offered with a view to gain access to paddle, and coach Scouts on more diverse and challenging range of rivers. Our thanks goes out to all of those involved in helping to offer paddlesport activities to the group, who without which it would not be possible.





District 5 a side Football



The District 5-A-Side Football tournament usually involves a competition for the Esher District Shield and also for the Plate. The usual format is to have two leagues playing a round robin, with the winners playing off for the Shield, and the runners up in each league playing off for the Plate. The Tournament is run on a Saturday evening at the Excel Centre in Guildford, and was last run in November 2015 when 1st Claygate won the Shield.

This time we entered two teams, who gathered at the Scout Centre on 30th September. Delayed by problems starting the minibus we just managed to register our two teams in time for the start of the tournament. We then discovered that the format had changed due to a couple of teams dropping out at the last minute, and that all the teams were going to play each other in a single league with the winner being awarded the Shield and the runner up the Plate.

The next hour and a half was filled with a series of fast and furious football matches – matches were 4 minutes each way and teams played alternate matches, with one pair of matches back to back, so the scouts just about had time to draw breath between matches. Adam, Joe, Edward, Sam and Kieran played as one team, and did well to notch up 3 wins, a draw and 2 losses, scoring 14 goals with some great mid-field link ups and good goal keeping. Jake, Laurence, Conal, Oliver and Jamie played as the other team winning 5 and drawing one match, with a tally of 16 goals between them.

So it was a rather hot and out of breath set of scouts who gathered to hear the final results, and where we were delighted to learn that the team of Jake, Laurence, Oliver, Conal and Jamie had won the tournament and retained the Shield for 1st Claygate.

Many thanks to Paddy Willard for coming to assist with managing the teams, and to all the parents who turned up to watch and support the scouts.



Christmas Post 12th - 22nd Dec

30p per card



We work in partnership with the 1st Hinchley Wood Scouts to deliver your cards within the **Claygate** Parish borders as well as to **Hinchley Wood**, the **Dittons & Esher**. Pop your cards (in fully addressed envelopes) and **30p per card** into one of the conveniently located **yellow Scout post boxes** and they will be collected the same day for prompt delivery. Last collection is at **2pm on Thu 22nd December**.

Profits from the Christmas Post are shared between 1st Claygate Scout Group and our selected charity, which this year is Oasis Childcare who provide support to Elmbridge children and their families in situations of family stress or breakdown.