



## 2018 - a landmark year!

*Message from Hugh Gostling, Group Scout Leader*

By any stretch 2018 is turning out to be a bumper and exciting year for 1st Claygate Scouts. Our young people and leaders are as busy as ever, with every one of our sections involved in at least two camps or nights away events over the spring and summer. The Band continues to thrive and undertake some very special commissions. And at the same time we have made good progress towards delivering our largest fundraising appeal ever. What a year!

- Beavers took part in Bazzaz, joining over 2,300 Beavers and Rainbows from across Surrey in a day-long fun-packed day at Merrist Wood College in Guildford
- Cubs took part in the Kip in A Ship in March and visiting the Imperial War Museum and "Up, Up and Away" District Camp at Polyapes in June
- 23 Scouts and leaders joined 500 others from Groups across Surrey for the International Scout Camp at Kandersteg, Switzerland, while 16 others undertook mountain and watersports activities in Snowdonia; these activities all following a successful North Downs expedition in June.
- Explorers undertook the gruelling 4 Inns Walk in Derbyshire in March followed by Summer Camp trekking across Dartmoor at their Summer Camp, and for the first time a number of Explorers have commenced their DoE Award programme with the Scout Group
- Over 200 young people, leaders and parents from 1st Claygate took part in the annual Group Scout Camp at Walton Firs in May
- 50 band members capped a busy summer schedule with a memorable and emotional trip to Ypres in Belgium where they played at the daily Menin Gate ceremony and the following day in Ypres itself.

On the fundraising side, we have now reached 80% of our Project Merlin target of raising £350,000 to expand the scout centre to enable us to take another 30 or 40 beavers and cubs each year. In addition to receiving generous grants and support from our local councils and a number of foundations, the whole Group has been active in raising funds:

- The Thames Path Trek involved 200 young people, leaders and parents in one of the largest Group-wide fundraising events we have ever undertaken, raising over £12,000 for Project Merlin
- The 3 Peaks Challenge, led by Helen Maguire, raised over £4,000.
- One of our Cubs, Tom, raised over £400 walking up Ben Nevis
- The first Claygate Beer Festival in June was a great success, with over 500 guests enjoying over 20 beers, ciders and wines and enjoying the lovely weather in our wonderful grounds
- Our annual stalwarts – the jumble sales, bedding plants sale, summer fete and Claygate flower show – all contributed well to our fundraising efforts.



We welcomed 23 new members to the Group this month across all sections along with some new leaders. In the next few months we will be as busy as ever. The Band are honoured to have been invited to play at the Armistice Centenary Commemoration Parade in Central London on 11th November, 100 years since the armistice in 1918. We have our annual fireworks celebration on 3rd November to which all families are invited. And, of course, our Groups will all be involved in the usual Christmas activities in December, with the Christmas Lights on 1st, Carols on the Green on 9th, around our own campfire on 14th and carol singing around the village on 22nd.

I never cease to be amazed by the amount our Group packs in to every term, none of which would be possible without the support of many dedicated leaders and parents. I hope you enjoy reading about all our activities and events in this bumper newsletter. And I look forward to meeting many of you over the next few months.

Best wishes,  
Hugh Gostling (Group Scout Leader)



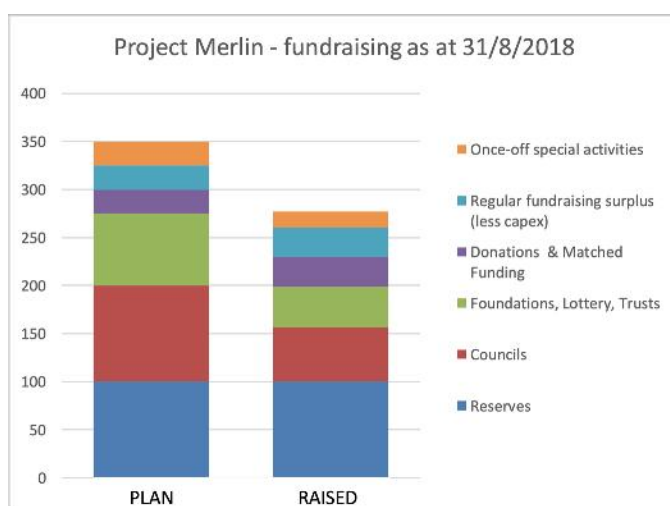
# Project Merlin Nears Its Target!!



Last year we set an ambitious target of raising £350,000 to fund the extension to our Scout Centre, creating an additional large meeting space to enable us to expand the Group and take in another 30-40 beavers and cubs each year.

The progress has been, well, magical. Thanks to a fantastic effort from leaders, parents and the young people themselves, together with grants from the local councils and a number of supportive foundations, we are already 80% of the way to our target – making it more than likely that we will be able to start work on the construction next June.

Details of the various fundraising events can be found throughout this newsletter and are summarised in the adjacent graph. As at the end of August, we have raised £277,000, of which an amazing £46,000 has been raised largely by the Group itself since 1st April.



Highlights of the fundraising since 1st April are:

- An amazing £12,500 raised through the Thames Path Trek, with 200 young people, parents and leaders taking part.
- A pledge of £10,000 from the Bernard Sunley Foundation.
- Over £6,000 raised from the April Jumble Sale, Claygate Flower Show, Summer Fete and Bedding Plant Sale.
- Over £5,000 raised from the first Claygate Beer Festival – watch this space for details of the second Festival in 2019 !
- Over £4,000 raised from the 3 Peaks Challenge, with 6 ladies (leaders, parents and friends) climbing the highest peaks in England, Scotland and Wales in 24 hours ... with just 9 minutes to spare. Aply supported by Dave the driver.
- A further £7,500 donated by a number of individuals and groups, of which a significant part is from an employer's charity-giving scheme.

**Donate Here: <https://www.mydonate.bt.com/charities/1stclaygatescoutgroup>**



# Project Merlin Nears Its Target!!



Although we have been successful so far, we need one last push to help us reach our target. How can you help?

We are really keen to hear from any parent who has access to an employer's grant-giving fund or matching scheme. If you can secure even a few hundred pounds it will help us reach our target. Contact our Treasurer, Gary Ernest, who will help you complete any application forms to access employer grants.

**Donate Here:**



Please support our fundraising activities for the rest of 2018 and into 2019.

- ts and leaders taking part.
- Buy a Christmas Tree (delivered free to your home) and Christmas Cards, and encourage your friends to do the same – Christmas is traditionally our best fundraising season
- Support the Merlin Quiz Night on 17th November – bring your friends and make a team!
- Bring your family and friends to the Fireworks on 3rd November.
- Support our activities at the Christmas Lights (Dec 1st), Carols on the Village Green (Dec 9th), Carols around the Camp Fire (Dec 14th) and join the Band playing Carols around the village (Dec 22nd).
- Make a direct donation via our BT My Donate page:
  - <https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/1stclaygatescoutgroup>
- Run your own event and link it to our BT My Donate fundraising page.

If anyone has any additional fundraising ideas, or would like to discuss any aspect of fundraising for Project Merlin or for 1st Claygate Scouts in general, please contact the Group Scout Leader, Hugh Gostling, [gsl@claygatescouts.org](mailto:gsl@claygatescouts.org).



## Tom Summits Ben Nevis in support of Merlin!

Tom (Cubs - Panther) has completed his walk up Ben Nevis, Britain's highest mountain standing at 1,345metres or 4,411 ft high in Scotland. He has raised £405 for Project Merlin.

It was a tough walk taking 4 hours to ascend and another 3 hours to descend, but he thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience!

Great job Tom and Thank You for your support!

**Donate Here: <https://www.mydonate.bt.com/charities/1stclaygatescoutgroup>**





# Beavers Bazzaz



The triennial event Bazzaz took place on June 23 and is the biggest outdoor activity event for Beaver Scouts in Surrey. Over 2300 young people took part and for the first time Rainbows, the youngest section of Girlguiding were invited to join in the fun.

Beaver Leaders from Surrey County transformed the fields of Merrist Wood College, Guildford into a paradise for our Beavers with a wide range of activities either hired in, or organized by Beaver Colonies.

What a choice there was, to name all would fill this page but firm favorites were:

Laser Tag, Climbing Wall, Last Man Standing, Assault Course, Go Carts, Bow and Arrows, Giant Slide, Metal Detecting, meeting policemen and fire fighters.

Quite a few Beavers got drenched in water while taking part in one of the numerous water games, a great way to cool down.

On the Claygate base Beavers could try their hand at making and launching a rocket.



An adult helper from another group was overheard saying "Oh they actually work" - as if we would allow anything substandard!





# Beavers Bazzaz



Thank you to all the parents/leaders who helped out on the day for keeping an eye on our Beavers and guiding them around.

To Owl for all her excellent organizational skills and getting the never ending paperwork entered into the Bazzaz website.

Check out the full range of photos taken on the day here:

<https://surreyscouts.smugmug.com/Public-Galleries/County-Events/Bazzaz-2018/>

or scan here:



Micheline Foreman





# Thames Path Trek



On Saturday the 7th of July, 24 Teams totalling 118 young people and almost as many leaders and parents from Claygate Scout Group took on the challenge of hiking the entire Thames Path in one day. The total combined distance covered by the teams was an amazing 184 miles and took teams along various sections of the picturesque route from Kemble in the Cotswolds all the way to the Thames Barrier in London.



The first team to get started were the Network team. They had the longest and most distant route to complete and left Claygate before 6am. By 8.30am, four minibuses and a coach had also left Claygate Scout Centre taking Explorer and Scout teams to their hike start points.



An hour later the Network, Explorer and Scout teams had started hiking whilst Cub teams were making their way to their hike start points. Shortly after this Beaver teams were gathering for their more local but equally challenging hikes.

At 1.30pm in the afternoon, Hugh Gostling sent a note to parents with the news that 10 teams had completed their hikes and had clocked up 63 miles between them. This meant 14 teams were still out and about, taking part in our great challenge.



The weather on the day was perfect and all the teams did a great job of keeping to their hike schedule and routes. By 4.15pm all the teams completed their hikes and were on their way back home to Claygate.

This tremendous effort from our young people, Leaders and helpers meant as a group we





# Thames Path Trek



had managed to complete the 184 miles in one day and still had time to have a great celebration including a photo show of the day, a lovely Hog Roast and a beautiful surprise celebration cake!

On the day, the total fund raising reached over £6,500 but following the event, the total has rocketed to £12,500 for Project Merlin. This is an amazing figure and reflects the huge amount of hard work and commitment from all those who took part, for which we are really very grateful.

All young people taking part in the hike (or raising funds) have earned one of our very special Thames Path Trek badges which can be worn on uniforms until the end of this term (please talk to your Leader if you haven't received yours yet).

There's still time to collect in any further funds pledged. Online donations can be made until the 8th October or cheques (made payable to 1st Claygate Scout Group) can be returned to your meeting Leader in an envelope with your child's name on.

We'd like to say a big 'THANK YOU' to everyone who joined in with our Big Adventure!

David Creigh



# Thames Path Trek

Thames Path Trek 2018  184 miles







# Annual Awards 2018



As part of celebration event for the Thames Path Trek we took the opportunity to present the Group's annual awards, my congratulation to the recipients. These are important awards as they recognise individuals who are committed to their Scouting.

I am also pleased to announce that Robin Wilkinson and David Creigh have been awarded the Award of Merit by the Scout Association recognising their service to Scouting.

Beaver Award 2018	Maple	Adam Wood
Beaver Award 2018	Sycamore	Freya Crudgington
Beaver Award 2018	Oak	Zak Barnett & Alfred Wood
Cub Award 2018	Lion	Grace Hamper
Cub Award 2018	Lynx	Redford Gull
Cub Award 2018	Panther	Lucas Dean & Liam Hides
Scout Award 2018		Ben Dawes
Explorer Scout Award 2018		William Boyce
Nightingale Award 2018		Alex Stubbs

Hugh Gostling (GSL)



# The 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 year's Summer newsletter you will know that in 2016 we entered 2 teams, in 2017 this increased to 4 teams and this year the event proved so popular we entered 6 teams!

In both 2016 & 2017 we entered just the 35k competitions but with some of the Explorers who took part in them now being older we entered 2 teams in the 65k competition.



The event took place on Saturday 24th March and with the start being over 200 miles

away we travelled up on the Friday night and stayed in a church hall in Holme.

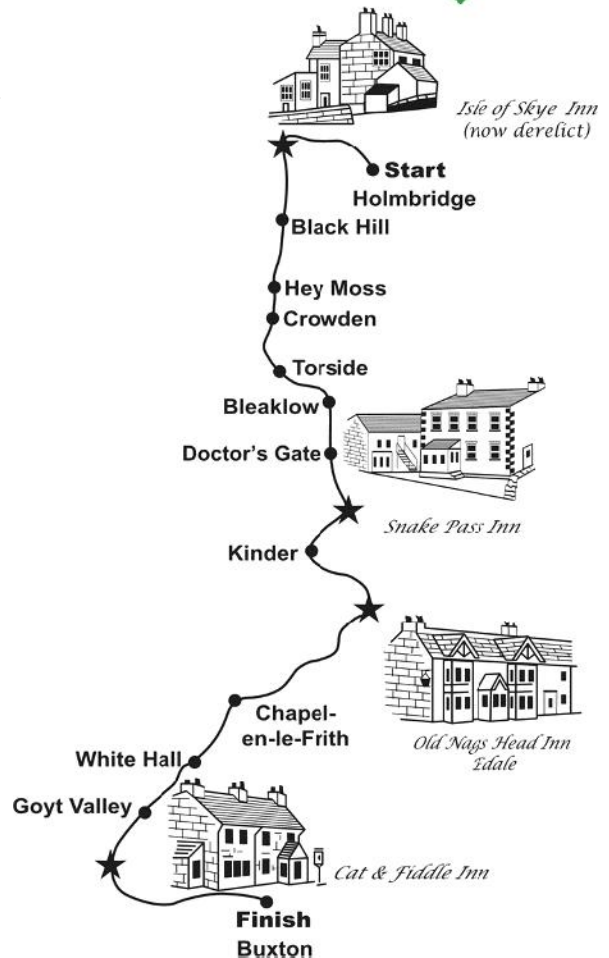
Saturday morning and those doing the 65k route were up very early (4.30am) for a short journey to the start. Those doing the 35k were able to get another 2 hours sleep before they were up and a 1/2 hour journey to their start at the Snake Pass Inn.



The 65k teams started at 6.24am from Holmbridge.

For the 65k teams the route starts with a short uphill section to the first checkpoint at the Isle of Skye Pub (site of) before a long uphill section onto Black Hill and then a even longer section down into Crowden via Hey Moss.

From here there's a short section to Torside and then another long uphill section over Bleaklow and down into Doctor's Gate, From here its a downhill road section to the Snake Pass Inn.



# The 4 Inns Walk



The Snake Pass Inn is the start of the 35k route but by the time the 65k teams arrived the 35k teams were long gone.

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 Chapel 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.

The 35k teams all finished in times ranging from 7hrs 48mins to 11hrs 38mins and the 65k teams finished in 19hrs 11mins.

## Congratulations to everyone who took part!

A quick thank you to Harriss, Kitty, Graham & Mark W who walked with the 35k teams and a special thanks to Tiny, David & Jon who made up our support team. They were up at 4.30am on the Saturday to get the 65k teams to their start location, then back to get the 35k teams to their start location, they then followed all 6 teams around, giving support, and were still up when the 65k team finish at 1.35am on the Sunday morning. Thanks also to Mark A who was our home contact.

Mark Southey





# "We Will Remember Them"



Fifty band members have just returned from a memorable and at times emotional trip to Ypres, Belgium, over the weekend of 7-9 September. The trip coincides with the commemorations of 100 years since the Armistice that marked the end of World War I.

Ypres was at the centre of one of the most sustained and brutal series of battles during World War I. Between 1914 and 1918, around half a million Allied and German troops lost their lives – achieving a territorial gain over the period of just 8km. The scale of loss and suffering was horrendous.

## Menin Gate Ceremony

The centre-piece of our tour was the band's participation in the Menin Gate ceremony.

At 8.00pm every evening a moving ceremony takes place under the Menin Gate in Ypres. The Last Post Ceremony has become part of the daily life in Ypres and the local people are proud of this simple but moving tribute to the courage and self-sacrifice of those who fell in defence of their town. Since 11 November 1929 the Last Post has been sounded at the Menin Gate Memorial every night of the year and in all weathers. The only exception to this was during the four years of the German occupation of Ypres from 20 May 1940 to 6 September 1944. The daily ceremony was instead continued in England at Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey. On the very evening that Polish forces liberated Ypres the ceremony was resumed at the Menin Gate, in spite of the heavy fighting still going on in other parts of the town. Bullet marks can still be seen on the memorial from that time.



The ceremony involving the band was the 31,157th time the ceremony has taken place! It's hard to describe the atmosphere. There was a huge crowd of at least 1,000 people, crammed under the Menin Gate and lining the road. There was a sense of excitement and anticipation but also, of course huge respect and reflection. The band marched into place playing 'National Emblem' – and the reaction from the public was warm and friendly. Then there was a period of 20 minutes standing still, on parade, with the atmosphere building. We were permitted to play one piece before the ceremony began. We played 'World in Union'. The band lifted their normal high standards to an even higher level – it sounded amazing under the arch.

Then, at 8pm, the buglers from the Last Post Association marched into position at the other end of the arch, facing the band, and sounded the Last Post, followed by a minute's silence. Veterans, other groups





# "We Will Remember Them"



and family members of those who died during the fighting then laid wreaths, during which the band played two further pieces.

Ben Dawes, a Claygate Scout, also laid a wreath on behalf of our Group during the ceremony.

We had arrived in Ypres earlier than expected on the Friday evening, just in time to watch the Band of the Scots Guards perform at the ceremony. So no pressure for our band performing the following day! We performed to a very high standard – everyone involved should be very proud. We met numerous people the following day who were at the ceremony – including a group of war veterans – who were very complimentary about the band's performance. Since we've returned, we've had emails too from those at the event:

*"My wife and I were at the Menin gate last Saturday and were most impressed with the band. Well done guys "*



*"I was present at the Last Post ceremony in Ypres on 8th Sept and enjoyed the performance of your band. It was very moving and special to be there.*

*I live in Weymouth in the UK. Pass on my thanks to your band for their performance, they did themselves and the UK proud."*

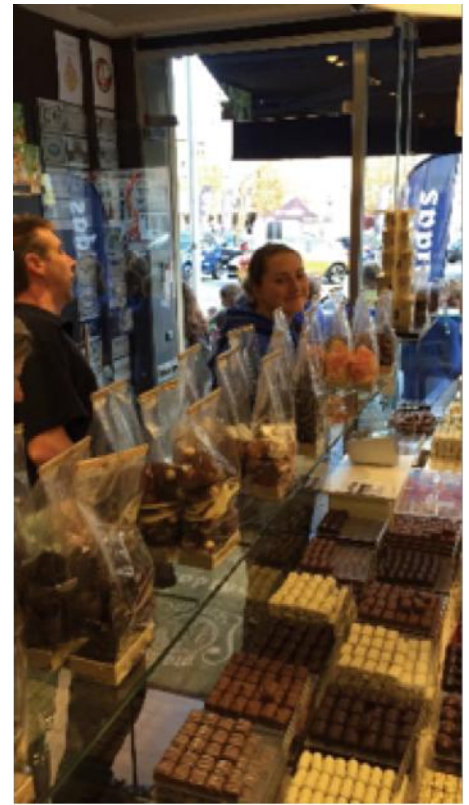
## Concerts

In addition to the Menin Gate ceremony, the band performed a lunchtime concert in the sunshine in the main Town Square in Ypres, and also performed in a beautiful setting at the Passchendaele Museum. During that concert, a local choir visiting the museum asked to perform a piece with us (well done to the band for your brilliant sight reading). We also visited the German War cemetery and Tyne Cot, the largest Commonwealth War Cemetery in the world – both of which were again moving occasions.





# "We Will Remember Them"



**...and chocolate of course!!!**

In addition, we found time to visit a local chocolate shop and some time for fun and relaxation at the hostel!

The band should be immensely proud of themselves. Every single person played their part – both in performing to a high standard and in the high standard of behaviour.

Claygate should be proud too!

A special thanks go to all the leaders for enabling the trip to go ahead.

## **ARMISTICE CENTENARY COMMEMORATION PARADE, CENTRAL LONDON**

Looking ahead, our involvement in the Armistice centenary events is not yet over. On 11 November 2018, the band has been invited to take part in a public procession organised by the Government involving 10,000 members of the public.

The march will pass down Whitehall, past the Cenotaph and back into St James' Park, and follows immediately after the Royal British Legion's Veterans Parade.

It is a great honour to be taking part in this major national event and we'll be working hard during our rehearsals this term to ensure we're in tip top form, both musically and in our drill.



The event will be screened live on BBC1 too.

Robin Wilkinson (Bandmaster)

# Scout Day Hike & District Archery



## Scouts District Day Hike

Our annual competitive hike took place on Saturday 10th March in the Surrey countryside around Woneresh. Claygate entered 3 teams – a competitive team of the older scouts and two training teams which were accompanied by a leader. The team of Ben, Quentin, Nick, Will and Adam did really well and finished first among the competitive teams, earning valuable points towards the district Top Troop Trophy. The training teams also had a good day, finishing 1st and 6th overall.

## Scouts District Archery Competition

I am pleased to announce that the Troop retained the Trophy from last year! The competition is one organised by 1st Claygate and held at the Scout Centre.

Each archer has 15 arrows over the competition with three members of each team shooting in rounds of three arrows.

After all this the Claygate team came through winning by 4 points. Well done to Hannah, Louis and Tom on retaining the Trophy.

Hugh Gostling (GSL)



## St. George's Day Parade



St George's Day Parade 2018 was an early taste of the glorious summer ahead. On a very hot April day the Group, along with other groups in the District, paraded in Cobham for the annual service of celebration to mark the Patron Saint of Scouting.

The 1st Claygate Scout and Guide Band led the march along Cobham High Street to St Andrew's Church. During the service all members and leaders renewed their Beaver, Cub, and Scout promises. We also heard about the founding of Rover Scouts in 1918, a new section for older boys after they left their scout troop, which was the precursor to our current Explorer Scout and Network sections.

It's always an enjoyable afternoon and a good opportunity to display the movement in the wider community.

# Kip In a Ship 17th-18th March HMS Belfast and the Imperial War



With the return of “the Beast from the East”, the first flakes of snow were drifting down from a grey sky as 38 cubs and accompanying adults squeezed into the waiting room of the London bound platform at Claygate Railway Station on Saturday 17th March. With overnight bags safely stowed in the minibus for later transportation to London, and aware of a weather warning for snow in the South East, we boarded the train for the journey to Waterloo.

Our first stop was the Imperial War Museum. In the World War I section Cubs could see if they would have passed the medical to join the army and try on some Army clothing, as well as seeing what life was like in the trenches, and follow the chronology of the War. The World War II section included a set of boots made of straw worn on the eastern front, one of the little ships that had been at Dunkirk and an exhibition about the experiences of a typical family in wartime. There was also an exhibition about some of those who have been awarded either the Victoria or George Cross including Jack Cornwell, who died at the age of 16 after the battle Of Jutland and after whom Scouting's Cornwell Award is named.

All too soon it was time to meet up for a somewhat chilly walk to the Thames Clipper and the trip down the Thames to HMS Belfast. We boarded HMS Belfast after tea at Pizza Express and meeting the minibus to collect our overnight bags.



The concierge met us and took us down to the mess decks where we would be staying – and as well as the safety briefing explained that we were staying on HMS Belfast on a unique occasion – as the ship was launched on 17<sup>th</sup> March 1938 and therefore we were sleeping on the ship on her 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday - and that as well as our tour of the ship the next day the Cubs would be able to take part in some additional activities, and



# Kip In a Ship 17th-18th March HMS Belfast & The Imperial War Museum



might even have a slice of birthday cake!

The Cubs' immediate priority however was to get settled in. After changing into night things, and watching a film accompanied by a drink and snack, the Cubs snuggled down into their bunks and eventually fell asleep ....tucked up in the mess decks we were in our own little world, and quite unable to tell what the Beast from the East was doing to the outside world. Perhaps the sailors felt the same when on arctic convoy duty in World War II.



Next morning we were up bright and early so as to be packed and ready when our concierge opened the hatch and called us for breakfast - peering out of the portholes we could see that there had been a little snowfall overnight. After breakfast we had a talk about HMS Belfast and the Cubs then had the morning to tour the ship in groups. They could see the arctic messdecks set up as they were in the 1940's with hammocks, and the 1950's mess decks with bunks, along with the Captain's bridge, engine room, galley, sick bay, post room, on board shop and more. At the end of the tour the Cubs found that birthday cake was indeed available!



After lunch it was time to begin the journey back to Claygate – given the icy weather conditions and bitter wind we were glad to use the Thames Clipper back to Waterloo, and then, due to planned engineering works, we caught the train to Surbiton, and the Cubs were re-united with their parents.

Despite the bitter weather, the Cubs had a memorable weekend, sharing HMS Belfast's 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Many thanks to the parents and leaders who supported the trip, (18 in total,) and to David Huddart and David Saunders who drove the mini-bus with all our baggage.

Katie Ernest – Akela-Lynx.

(Further photos on the website.)



## Group Camp Beavers Do Battle!

Our camp began this year on a beautiful sunny morning. Having waved goodbye to their parents 70 excited Beavers set about decorating a commemorative mug to mark the occasion of the Royal wedding and to prepare for the Princes and Princesses themed afternoon in store!

A walking tour of the camp followed, a fantastic introduction to the whole 1st Claygate group. We saw the Cubs' neat rows of tents, watched the Scouts preparing to cook their own lunches over the fire and were treated to a demonstration from the Explorers on how to whittle a stick into the shape of a mushroom!

After a delicious lunch (special mention to Owl's incredible chocolate castles, with their own moats of strawberry jelly!) the Beavers embarked on a whirlwind of activities. Hobby horses were constructed, helmets and tabards made, sword and shields decorated culminating in our Princes and Princesses being fully equipped to mount their steeds and do battle!

...and what a battle it was, ten teams charged across the field on horseback (!) popping rows of balloons with their swords. The shouting and cheering was deafening!

Next was dinner (another feast of pasta bolognese and apple crumble) followed by the group campfire where we were entertained with comedy sketches and songs. The Beavers were in fine voice when it was their turn to lead the singing and the Cubs' penguin song has been a firm favourite with the Beavers ever since!

A hot chocolate and a bedtime story and the Beavers were ready for bed – some in the hut, others in the giant tent. A good night's sleep for all the children (if not the leaders!)



The camp was rounded off with a hearty breakfast, some more games and the going up ceremony where we waved goodbye to those moving on to Cubs.

All in all, a fantastic weekend which I know the Beavers will remember for years to come!

Emma Smith (Nala)





# Group Camp

The Claygate Group Activity Weekend includes all Sections of the Group and is our major annual project. Much advanced planning has to take place and essentially booking the site is needed at least 12 months in advance. This year we were located in our favourite spot on the main field at Walton Firs.

For the Cub Packs, the theme this year was 'Trees' and tents were allocated the respective names based on this. We had 65 Cubs signed up for camping and with 8 day visitors. This meant that 12 Patrol Tents were needing to be set up which took place on the Thursday. The weekend forecast was good, and an early team of leaders completed the setup of the Camp Kitchen on the Friday afternoon and took receipt of a Sainsbury's van of food ... Phew!

Cubs were signed in, allocated tents and changed into Camp kit before receiving briefing from the Camp Akela, the Points Competition explained. Tents were checked, kit stowed and prepped for sleep – (and tents inspected) whilst Cubs had a series of games and a tour of the site and then on for a practice campfire and hot chocolate drink and cake! ... Camp was in full session!

Saturday dawned early ... With some tents waking before 05.00 (Points docked by disturbed Leaders!) At least the weather was fine! After a near Full English breakfast the chores began and leaders completed the finishing touches to their bases, whilst other leaders supervised Cubs with washing up and half brailing tents and laying out for the day. All the Group were present for the Welcome from the GSL and Flag Break.

With 6 bases, there were up to 12 cubs per base which certainly kept leaders and adult helpers busy for the day! Bases consisted of activities to deliver the Outdoor Challenge ... Pitching and Striking tents; Building a shelter to take 2 Cubs; Pioneering – Building a camp gadget; Countryside Code and trees; Orienteering and map reading; A camp craft. At the morning break, Cubs had to collect kindling in anticipation of building and lighting a fire to make their lunch! pizza style pitta breads with a selection of fillings which was truly enjoyable... Whilst the fires were getting up to condition, Cubs had lessons in first aid treatment and especially burns and scalds! Happily the lunch activity left these new skills untested!!

After a full day, happy and tired Cubs enjoyed a good hot meal and once cleared away, re-prepped their tents for sleep before heading off for a great camp fire ... With all sections contributing and Cubs singing loudly ... Perhaps the high spot was the 'There's a HOLE IN MY BUCKET' Sketch!  
Cubs slept well that night and no points deducted from grumpy Leaders!



Sunday was again fine and good prospect for repacking dry canvas. Again after a good breakfast the tents and kit were tidied and inspected and then to Scout's Own ... With the further drama of the going up ceremony where we said goodbye to a number of Cubs and welcomed new. Then Cubs dispersed to Adventure Activities such as Caving, Crates, Climbing with all getting at least 2 activities in. Then as usual, a light lunch, litter pick and regather as a Group for Flag down and announcement of the Tent Competition... Well done to the winning Team!

So many good memories and we can't wait for next year!! But without the great support of Leaders and the willing adult helpers, this great weekend would not be possible. Thankyou!

Bob Lonnon (Rama)

# Group Camp - Scouts



The adventure started on Friday night as a large proportion of the troop began to arrive for the annual GAW. First job was for scouts to find their patrol and collect all the kit they would need for the weekend. This was quickly followed by the second job, which was to pitch their patrol tents, store tents and dining shelters before setting up their fires. The patrols could then relax a bit and start to prepare a late night snack before getting ready for bed.

Saturday was a very busy day with a whole range of activities on offer. The younger scouts learned a selection of camp skills, from fire building to the safe use of axes and saws. The older scouts helped to build a rope bridge across a ravine, ready for the going-up ceremony on Sunday morning. The patrol leaders then spent a few hours with the Explorers to learn a bit more about what's coming next in their scouting journey and returned having cooked nettle soup and whittled a mushroom. The whole troop also spent time on the Walton Firs assault course and archery range.

Saturday afternoon saw the patrols building up their fires in readiness for dinner preparation. Each group had designed their own menu and bought their own food, so there were a wide range of dishes being prepared. Almost everyone remembered to bring all the food they'd purchased to camp ... the exceptions being rescued with a last minute chicken donation from the leaders' tent.

Following dinner, the scouts had a brief chance to practice their comedy sketches before performing them for the whole group at the evening camp fire. In case they still had too much energy, there was an evening wide game involving a lot of running and chasing around a large area of the camp site. For most of the troop this was followed by hot chocolate and bed. For the patrol leaders the excitement was just beginning as they were off to sleep in the bivvies that they had built in the woods earlier in the day.

Sunday dawned clear and bright and the surviving patrol leaders returned from their woodland adventure to organise breakfast. Following a scouts' own and going up ceremony, attention turned to striking camp. The usual strict inspection regime and the less usual good weather ensured that everything went away clean and dry with time to spare for either a quick game of volleyball or a relaxed chat in the sunshine before heading home after lunch.

Sunday evening gave us a chance to reflect back on a packed and very enjoyable weekend.

Mark Woodward

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## Fireworks Party

Come and Join us for a Fun Packed Evening

Of

Fireworks, Sausage & Soup

a

Pay Bar with local brew

At

The Scout Centre, Oaken Lane, Claygate

On

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 5:30pm - 7:30pm(approx)

Price £6.00 each

Under 3 free

To include sparklers for All children at the end to take home

DVD on for children not liking fireworks!

Stay and have a drink and catch up with friends while the children are in a safe place

Enquiries to Debbie at [owl.bowles@googlemail.com](mailto:owl.bowles@googlemail.com)

<http://www.claygatescouts.org>





# District Cub Camp



In June claygate Cubs descended upon Polyapes campsite for the annual District camp. They were joined there by groups from all over Esher district for a great weekend of camping and fun activities. At district camp all groups put on a number of activities and the cubs are free to wander round in groups enjoying a wide variety of events and the safe environment of the campsite allows them to develop their independence.

This year's theme was "Up, up and away" to celebrate 100 years of the RAF and the activities included: archery, aerial runway, obstacle course (RAF basic training), trampolines, flight shaped toast-backwoods cooking, knot board, tent peg painting, paper airplane obstacle course, rockets made from swimming noodles, stomp rockets, RAF badge making, Top Gun training, kite making, flapping bird craft, and making a parachute man model. They were run throughout the Saturday and many allowed cubs to keep returning and having extra goes. The craft making activities allowed cubs to learn new skills as well as build their own souvenirs of the weekend.

At the evening campfire Claygate treated the camp to a rousing rendition of the "Penguin" song while all the other groups put on a variety of songs and skits to round off the Saturday night superbly.

Polyapes is a great campsite and the Claygate Cubs were able to enjoy the freedom this camp allows them. On Sunday morning the airplane man came to camp and every Cub got to make a model airplane.

Then lunch and home time when the cubs were reunited with their families and taken home full of wonderful memories, great food, but probably in need of a bath and some sleep...



Huge thanks to all the leaders and parent helpers who made this such a special weekend for the cubs.

Nick Waddingham (Chil)



# Scout Camp Snowdonia July 2018

It ended as it began, with a 6.30am alarm on a bright sunny morning in July. The journeys there and back were similarly warm and sunny. It was only while we were there that the wind howled and the rain poured. Welcome to North Wales Scouts, hope you took me seriously when I said to pack full waterproofs and a woolly hat despite it being over 30C in Claygate.

We arrived in Capel Curig to move into our home for the next few days, a cosy bunkhouse in the grounds of Plas-y-Brenin, the National Mountain Centre located in the heart of Snowdonia National Park. Our group consisted of eleven intrepid youngsters and a support team of five leaders.

We woke on Sunday morning to the sound of rain drumming on the roof and so decided to take a leisurely breakfast while reconsidering our plans for the day. The walking group still went out, but modified the route to avoid high peaks and low cloud. Instead, we covered 9 miles of the Ogwen valley, climbing to about 400m before following (and in one case, very nearly being blown into) a water channel that followed the hillside. The kayaking group still faced the challenge of open water, but then chose the comfort of riding the mountain railway half way up Snowdon ... the other half being closed due to bad weather.

Sunday evening gave us an opportunity to use Plas-y-Brenin's kayak training pool, where much fun was had both in and out of the boats. There were some fiercely competitive games of water polo, although I'm not sure that standing next to the opposition goalkeeper and continually splashing water at them is a tactic encouraged by the British

Water Polo League. The performance of the leader in goal was significantly enhanced by the loan of a pair of goggles from a teammate.

Monday morning saw the two groups swap activities. The forecast was for more settled weather and a chance of clear summits, so the walkers stuck to the original plan and climbed Moel Siabod. The route initially took us through the forests at the foot of the mountain and then began to ascend past lakes and abandoned quarry works. As the cloud came down and the rain settled in, we made our way up the steep and rocky scramble of Daear Dhu to finally



# Scout Camp Snowdonia July 2018

reach the summit at 872m. A perfect demonstration of the value of a compass bearing saw us emerge from the fog after about half a kilometer of rocky summit to see the start of our descent path only a few metres away to our right. As we dropped below the cloud, a spectacular view of the valley opened up and we made quick progress back to base for a well-earned cup of tea.

Meanwhile, the kayak group paddled along their chosen reservoir and stopped for various games, including “chase Mark” and “stop Nicole”, before becoming more adventurous with “raft runner” which quickly turned into “raft swimmer” for a few of the participants. After lunch and a return paddle, the group packed up and headed into the local café for a warming hot chocolate.

Come Tuesday morning and it was time to pack up for our return journey, but we still had one more activity to look forward to, the Fforest Coaster near Betws-y-Coed. Think of a sledge that runs on rails and descends for approximately 1km through the trees and you have the idea. By our third run, most of us were leaving the brakes fully off all the way down and the screams (well mine at any rate) could be heard for miles around.

A sleepy group of scouts then snoozed in the bus for the long journey back to Claygate and back to summertime. It was warm enough to dry my boots out in the garden by the time we got home.

Mark Woodward



# Scouts North Downs Expedition

## 2nd / 3rd June



Whilst the rest of Claygate was enjoying the beer festival over the weekend of 2nd/3rd June, eight of our scouts were hiking along the North Downs Way from Ranmore Common to Reigate Hill, with an overnight stop in Box Hill village. The weather was ideal and the group made good progress along the 24km route. Read on to hear their story...

### Planning the route (Xandy)

The first task we had to do was plan our route and we did this at the meeting before the expedition. We were given some grid references for the checkpoints along our route, a map, a pencil and a compass and from these, we plotted the points, drew lines on the paths that we intended to walk and we estimated roughly how long the walk between each checkpoint would take. This freed up time on the morning of the expedition to get our kit ready.



### Getting ready to go (Caspar)

Sorting out the kit was very challenging because there was a lot to take despite being overnight and we had to ensure we had all of it in the correct parts of our bags so it didn't hurt our backs. I needed to tick each item off against my checklist so I knew what I had and that I had packed it. We needed as a team to make sure we had everything required for our trip and we shared various things amongst us.

I didn't want to have too many things so I made sure that what I packed was the bare minimum so I would have less weight to carry on a long hike. I had the heavy kit at the bottom of my bag, like sleeping bag and tent, and the light things such as clothes at the top so that things were balanced and so I could walk upright rather than bending if the weight was at the top.



I made sure I had my food accessible at the top of my bag so I wouldn't take long breaks trying to find my lunch and snack and so they would not get squashed and leak into my bag. I made sure my water was on the side of my bag so I could drink it whilst walking.

### Setting off (Jake)

We drove to the drop off point at Ranmore Common car park then got out our maps, worked out where we needed to go then started out on our hike. The start of our route was next to a run so we had a competition to see who could get the most hi-fives from the runners and then anyone else we met during the hike (Jake won with 16!).

### Finding the camp site (Jamie)

The walking was a definite struggle at times, but was well worth it. The views were just amazing. Finding the campsite seemed to be a bit difficult, but after a few wrong turns we managed to find it and we had a bonus of having it to ourselves, which made it extra rewarding.

### Camping overnight (Nick)

We arrived and checked into the camp site and set up our tents. We unpacked all our things and changed into non-sweaty clothing. We cooked our meals over Primuses and built a massive fire.



# Scouts North Downs Expedition

## 2nd / 3rd June



Sunday morning (Joe)

Packing up in the morning was slow and hard because nobody wanted to get up. We started with a perfect! breakfast with boil-in-the-bag. We put down the tent in minutes and set off for a 12km hike.

Sunday hike (Colm)

The route on Sunday was a hilly route. Lots of downhill at the beginning and then up a really steep hill to a viewing point where we had lunch. At every option or junction someone was saying not to go up the hill, so we didn't take any wrong turns.

Finishing (Adam)

On the last part of the Sunday route, we finally got to the end of the expedition. At the end there was a café and a car park. We waited to be picked up and laid down on a hill. Mark was late because of the buses, but it gave us a chance to rest our legs from the hike. Then we got on the bus and went home.

Mark Woodward



## Explorer DofE Hike



This year the Explorers are running their first DoE Bronze Award program as part of a journey over the next few years to deliver a full DoE program through Bronze, Silver and Gold.

As part of this journey the Unit has been investing in specialist resources and specific DoE training for its Leaders. The experience has gone well so far, with seven Explorers making good progress on the Bronze Award, expecting to successfully complete it later this year.

The training for the DoE mirrors much of what Scouts learn anyway, from camping, to cooking, to navigation, to First Aid, to survival and self-reliance, so the participants are well placed to complete the DoE awards and the Queen Scouts awards at the same time.

Specific DoE requirements include activities such as community volunteering, learning a new skill and taking part in a physical activity, which the individuals manage themselves with support from the Scout assessors. In addition a key requirement of each DoE award level is completing a multi-day Expedition as a team, with each level of award (Bronze, Silver, Gold) getting progressively longer and more challenging. In line with the DoE aspirations and the Explorer Scout experience the expeditions are self-managed and only supervised remotely.

At the end of June the Explorers planned and completed their 2 day overnight Bronze "practice" expedition around the Surrey Hills. It was one of the hottest weekends of the year, where hiking with heavy rucksacks and managing water was challenging; they did well and lessons were learned. The Explorers are now actively planning for their final "assessed" expedition later in September. Following the success of this year we are now planning to run both Bronze and Silver schemes in 2019.

Mark Burrows



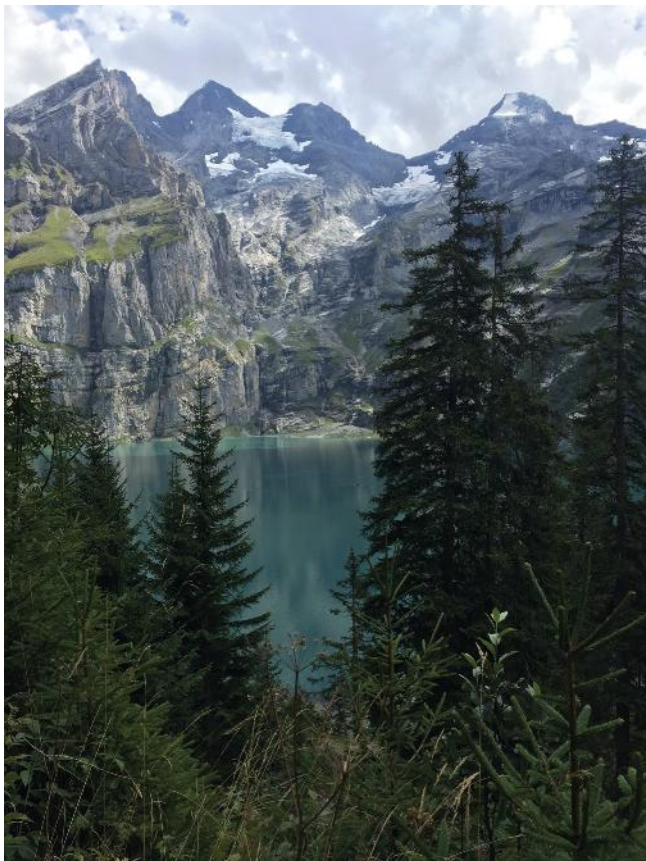
# Scout Camp – Kandersteg

This year, in place of the usual summer camp in the UK, the Troop joined the Surrey expedition to Kandersteg in Switzerland. This trip is organised every four years by the County who book all the activities and cook all our meals so the young people can concentrate on having a good time!

The Claygate contingent of 18 Scouts and 5 leaders joined a group of around 500 people travelling to Switzerland on a fleet of 9 coaches. We boarded the coach at Guildford on Friday evening at 7pm amid the chaos of Surrey University car park. After a late night ferry and long coach journey we arrived at Kandersteg at around 2pm on the Saturday. Kandersteg International Camp is a permanent facility open all year round for Scout groups from around the world. Our group from Surrey took up less than half the camp. Claygate scouts were shown to a secluded area which was to be our home for the week.

## Day 1 – High Walks

Our first day's activity was to be the high walk. This was a chance to experience the dramatic mountains around the Kander valley, accompanied by walking guides from Surrey. We split into 4 teams. All completed a challenging walking at high altitude with two of the teams reaching the summit of the Gaellinhorn peak at 2,200m, a climb of 1000m from our base! The tough climb was rewarded with spectacular views of the valley and surrounding mountains.



## Day 2 – High Ropes

We visited the high ropes centre at Interlaken and spent a morning on the various routes through the trees, up to a scary 30m off the ground. In the afternoon we headed in to Interlaken to do some shopping and watch the parascenders landing in the park.



## Day 3 – Local Day

Every group was expected to devote a half day to duties around camp. Our task was to sort the rubbish into the various categories for recycling – something the Swiss are very keen on. Happily, with our group of 23 we made light work of the task and were finished in good time to stroll in to Kandersteg village, stopping off at a spectacular waterfall, to spend an afternoon swimming and diving at the local pool. In the evening we enjoyed chocolate and cheese fondues.

## Day 4 – Troop Choice Day

For our troop choice day we had chosen to visit the beautiful mountain lake of Oeschinnensee. We decided to do it the hard way and walk up and get the cable car down. We had a picnic by the lake and paddled in

# Scout Camp - Kandersteg

the water, looking out at the surrounding peaks and glaciers. We then headed across to the toboggan run (metal, rather than snow) for the afternoon.

## Day 5 – Low Walks

We chose for our low walks day to head to the picturesque Blausee, a two hour walk down the valley. As it was another hot day we decided to stop off at the swimming pool again on the way back to cool off after the uphill walk. In the evening we joined a 'spiritual' torch-lit light trail organised by the Kandersteg staff.

## Day 6 – Rafting

On Friday we headed to the fast-flowing Aare river and joined a group of four rafts heading 15km down the river to the capital, Bern. We had an enjoyable trip spent either in the boat or in the river - which was surprisingly warm - before arriving in the city. After lunch we had a walk around Bern to look at the parliament and the old town before heading back to camp for the international campfire in the evening.

## Day 7 – Home

On the Saturday morning we packed away our stuff, took the tents down and made our sandwiches for the journey home, leaving at 2.30pm. We arrived at Guildford at 7am the next morning having watched a selection of DVDs and tried to get some sleep. After hanging up the tents up at the Scout Centre the Scouts headed home tired but hopefully with great memories of a fantastic trip.



Paul Smith



# Explorer Camp



This year we walked across the rugged terrain of Dartmoor. The weather was hot and we had limited water, which was collected from any stream that had not dried up. We also had a few early starts (4am!!) so we could do our walking before the heat kicked in.

Luckily breaking camp in the mornings was quick due to the Explorers mainly sleeping under the stars. Food was NOT boiled in the bag, but the Explorers cooked from scratch fresh garlic, ginger, herbs and spices to make some excellent meals.

Then we all got muddy again caving at Buckfastleigh caves!

At the end of a hot and sweaty week we all had a wash. Whilst Exploring one of the rivers on Dartmoor we also did a day's Rock climbing and Coasteering around the lovely Devon coastline.

It was hard going and a tough walk and all the Explorers were amazing. I was very proud of them, great team work and just getting stuck in with the tasks. WELL DONE ALL.

Graham Copland-Cale ESL



# Paddlesport 2018



2018 has been another busy year for paddlesports within 1st Claygate. We started the year with a 3\* training weekend to North Wales. This included paddling the lower Afon Tryweryn and Afon Dee. This pushed the skills of our 3\* candidates and widened their paddling experiences. It was a great weekend, and even included paddling in the snow!

Following this we started our annual 1\* and 2\* courses. These run from April through until the summer holidays and this year included a full 1\* course and an over-subscribed 2\*. We hope to be able to offer everyone the opportunity of their 2\* in 2019.

Our 1\* went brilliantly with 9 scouts passing their assessments and looking forward to the opportunities in 2019. Our 2\* has also been a great success, we have included many river training days whilst also continuing our use of Claygate Primary School pool and Guildford Lido. We added an additional overnight canoe camping weekend on the river Thames and hope to now keep this in our course for next year.



Our 3\* program has continued to progress and many of our candidates have now been helping with the 1 and 2\* courses as trainee young leaders which has been essential, and we hope this level of progression and enthusiasm continues within our young people. We managed to fit in another day trip to the Olympic White-Water Centre at Lee Valley and have organised an assessment weekend in November – we wish our candidates all the best with this assessment.

We have just returned from our weekend trip to Symonds Yat, on the river Wye, in South Wales. We took a record 18 people on this trip and this went amazingly well, a very fun trip with well behaved and enthusiastic young people. All progressed brilliantly and are ready for their next steps in paddlesports.

In the next few months we have our 2\* assessment taking place, our 3\* assessment weekend to North Wales and are planning to progress our current 2\* candidates onto their 3\* training. And we will hopefully be looking into a Paddlesport Instructor training course for our young people.

If you would like 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.

Michael Gostling



# 3 Peaks Fundraising Success



It was 5.30am on the morning of Friday 8 June when 6 ladies together with David Saunders our trusty driver, headed off in the Scout Van to attempt the 3 Peaks Challenge.

Giddy with nervous excitement, all preparation had been completed and it was now D-day with an 11hour drive to Ben Nevis.

The 3 Peaks team included scout leaders; Joanna Shillington and Helen Maguire and Claygate mums Susannah Moffat, Yris Byrne, Sheryl Clarke, Elizabeth Rossiter and David Saunders an enthusiastic Scout helper.

The 3 Peaks challenge in 24hours involves climbing Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowdon as well as all the driving in between. A total walking distance of 23.5 miles (37km) and total ascent of 3064m (10,052ft) with a total driving distance of 462 miles.

The routes, timings and pace were planned, route cards made and back with sticky back plastic. Everyone had their individual role to play in the expedition. Yris was time keeper, Joanna was photographer, Susannah was in charge of food supplies, Helen and Liz were navigators, Sheryl was communications and David was logistician. The weather prediction was grim, rain on each summit!

After the long drive, after a quick warm up, at 5.20pm, the team started ascending Ben Nevis, a little behind schedule but still in good time. It was a hot but clear day and we were thankful that the predicted storm and rain hadn't yet appeared. Everything depended on very tight timing. The ascent was steady with only a few 2-minute breaks allowed (pee and food stops). We remained on the summit for 5 min before descending. Total walking time 4hrs 46min. After a quick open air change of clothes whilst avoiding the mosquitoes, we were back in the bus en route to peak no. 2.

From the drive up to Ben Nevis it became apparent that the Scout bus was not as nippy as we had hoped. The promised 60mph restricted limit was actually 57mph, which over a few hundred miles makes a difference! Bearing this in mind we tried to limit our stops as best we could. After some food on the move, the team apart from David snuggled down to a kip in the bus for the 6.5hour drive to the Lake District.

By 4.41am, we were at the foot of Scafell Pike. The car park was so full and the day already so clear and bright that it felt like much later in the day. We were grateful for the early start, which provided lovely cool air to aid our ascent. Seeing some familiar faces from other teams also taking part in the Challenge, we started our ascent. 1hr and 45min later we were on top of Scafell Pike. After the obligatory "I was here photos", we headed back down a more unusual steep route. Completing Scafell Pike in 3h 42min. A minor lost phone incident, ensured Joanna got her fell running in as well!

Back on the road, it was going to be tight. We knew that the navigation timings were not accurate for the Scout Bus and had to add on more time to compensate for the speed restrictor. Nevertheless, David's expert driving of the



# 3 Peaks Fundraising Success



bus and navigation ensured that we arrived at Pen-y-Pass, the foot of Snowdon just in time ready to start the ascent at 1.34pm.

We ascended via Snowdon's Pyg track. After the quieter peaks of Ben Nevis and Scafell Pike, we were slightly surprised at the amount of people on Snowdon. On the summit, individuals queued to have their photo taken. Unfortunately this meant that our descent down the Miner's Track took a little longer as we tried to navigate around individuals who found it trickier to descend. Once on the almost flat final stretch of the Miner's Track, we knew it was going to be tight. We were taking no chances! We decided to start jogging the last bit until we had sight of the car park.

Finally 6 exhausted ladies were there with David cheering us on, with just 9 minutes to spare! 3 peaks completed at 5.10pm in 23hrs 50min and 34secs, with the amazing ground crew support from David Saunders.

Thank you to everyone who supported us, overall, the 3 Peaks Challenge has raised over £4,000 for Project Merlin.

Helen Maguire



# Dates for the Diary



As ever the term is packed with events for everyone and an extract from the Group calendar is set out below:

MONTH DATE	EVENT	BEAVERS	CUBS	SCOUTS	EXPLORER	network	activesupport	HELP WANTED!
<b>September</b>								
22nd	Jumble Sale (Scout Centre)						X	X
27th	District Scout Cooking Competition			X				
29th	District 5 a Side Football			X				
<b>October</b>								
2nd	District Shooting Competition				X			
03rd	Scouters Meeting (Scout Centre)	X	X	X	X	X		
06th-07th	District Night Hike			X				
13th	District Cub Sausage Sizzle		X					
14th	Going Up Ceremony	X	X	X	X	X		
16th	District Explorer Backwoods Cooking Competition					X		
<b>November</b>								
03rd	Group Fireworks (Scout Centre)	X	X	X	X	X	X	
07th	Scouters Meeting (Scout Centre)	X	X	X	X	X		
10th	District Chess Competition		X					
10th	Lord Mayors Show (London)		BAND	BAND	BAND	BAND	BAND	
11th	Remembrance Parade	X	X	X	X	X	X	
11th	Band part of Armistice 100 Parade		BAND	BAND	BAND	BAND	BAND	
14th	Group Executive Meeting						X	
17th	District Patrol Leaders Training							
17th	Quiz Night (Project Merlin) Scout Centre (19:45 for 20:00 Start)							X
26th	District Explorer Games Competition (Polyapes)				X			
<b>December</b>								
01st	Claygate Lights	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
09th	Carols on the Green	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
14th	Carols round the Camp Fire	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
16th	Cubs visit to Panto - Jack and the Beenstalk		X					
22nd	Band playing Carols round the Village		X	X	X	X	X	
<b>January</b>								
18th-20th	District Activity Weekend (P)				X	X		

Latest Calendar can be found on our website : <http://www.claygatescouts.org> or scan the code to right



## Upcoming events

As ever we have a number of major events up to Christmas which I would like to recommend to you

### Group Fireworks 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2018

A family event at the Scout Centre with Display Fire works, hot dogs and soup.

### Quiz night 17<sup>th</sup> November 2018

A brain tester with great food

### Carols round the Camp Fire 14<sup>th</sup> December 2018

Another great family event, with carols round the campfire, followed by refreshments and traditional Christmas songs inside the Scout Centre