

February 2019



Project Merlin achieves its target!!



After almost two years of fundraising and planning, we are delighted to announce that in early February we hit the target of raising £350,000 to enable the Group to extend the upstairs room in the scout centre and thus give us the space (and time) to open a new beaver colony and new cub pack, and thus to start to tackle our stubbornly large waiting list.



This is a remarkable achievement and would not have been possible without the support of the local councils, substantial donations or pledges from several supportive foundations and trusts, and a good deal of hard work from leaders, parents and young people in raising funds through sponsorships and by supporting the Group's fundraising activities.

The major donation which took us 'over the line' was a pledge of up to £70,000 from the London Marathon Charitable Trust. This is the largest single donation that we have received in support of Project Merlin and followed an application that emphasised the physical activity opportunities open to our young people in scouting such as hiking, cross-country running, orienteering, sailing, kayaking and, more recently, the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme.

But now the real work starts! The designs for the extension have been sent out to tender. We plan to start construction in the second half of June, with an estimated completion date of end September. Simultaneously we will be working through the logistics of running a new beaver colony and cub pack and will shortly be seeking volunteer leaders to help lead these new sections when they commence later this year. A further communication explaining the plans for section meetings once the construction begins and plans for opening new beavers and cubs sections later in the year will be made shortly.

Other fundraising

Although Project Merlin has been our major focus, the groups and sections still found time to raise funds via our more regular activities.

In September and January we held our regular jumble sales, which raised over £3,500 – these are valuable fundraising activities and we are immensely grateful to the many organisers and parents who give up their time to help set up and sort through the heaps of jumble, then to run the sale and finally to help tidy up afterwards.

We also welcomed 500 parents and children to our annual fireworks party in early November. And we also held a very successful Christmas tree and Christmas card season, exceeding for the first time 300 trees and wreaths delivered to local addresses together with over 550 packs of Christmas cards.

Parents and leaders also found the time and energy to raise funds for our members who will be attending the Scouts Jamboree in the USA this summer by way of a hearty Burns Night supper and ceilidh. The cubs raised over £350 through their Christmas sale for Make A Wish. And the scouts raised over £400 for Shelter by sorting and delivering Christmas Cards around the village.

Well done to all our supporters and helpers for their amazing efforts.

Hugh Gostling, Group Scout Leader

<http://www.claygatescouts.org>



Esher District Beaver Party - Aesop's Fables



Over 220 Beavers from the Esher district (52 from 1st Claygate) took part in the annual District Beaver Party held at Hinchey Wood School. The groups introduced and welcomed each other at the opening Ceremony after which the Beavers started their activities in their respective colonies .

Bunny /tortoise ceramic pen pots were decorated, lion or mouse masks made and delicious tasting rabbit and tortoise shaped biscuits created. Thank you to Debbie for making all the biscuits and to Kim for baking the dairy free ones.

At the games base both adults and Beavers threw rings, trying to beat the scores from the other Beaver colonies. I am proud to report that Claygate came out with a high score. Games ended with colourful parachute games.

After the bases, refreshments were served in the main hall followed by an hour long production of Aesop's Fables by Cat's Grin. The Beavers watched and participated in the adventures of some of their favourite Aesop characters: Mr Fox, Monkey, Tortoise and Stork. I must say, we saw some great dance moves!

We had a visit from Sue Hathaway (Deputy County Commissioner for Beavers) who commented "I had a great time and it was clear all the Beaver Scouts were having fun. You are to be congratulated on working so hard to put on such a successful event. Well done to everyone involved".

The leaders also received a lovely comment from a Beavers parent: "my son had a great time, he loved the craft and the biscuits he brought home were great. He has taken to being a mouse a lot too!"



Esher District Beaver Party - Aesop's Fables



We would like to thank all the parent helpers for their support and hard work in guiding our Beavers thus ensuring a successful event. Thank you also to the Beaver leaders.

A big thank you to Caroline, Sue, Ed and Dave from our Scout Active Support Unit who stepped in to ensure that all bases could operate and a special thank you to Debbie (Owl) for organising and supplying all the resources.



Time Travelling Beavers...

For his Personal Challenge Award, Harry took one of our Beaver Colonies approximately 70 years back into scouting history.

Harry's granddad, Michael, was a Boy Scout in Wokingham and was awarded the Queen's Scout Award in 1957. For his presentation, Harry dressed up in his granddad's Scout's uniform. It is then that you realize how quickly the times have changed!

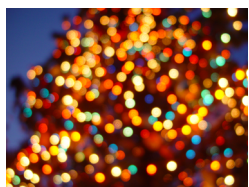
Some of the typical items that members would have owned are quite surprising:

- The kaki short-sleeved shirt
- Kaki shorts and socks just under the knee
- A Brown leather belt , a scarf and woggle
- A four dented green campaign hat with flat brim
- If awarded, a Bushman's Thong/ Shoulder Knot
- A wooden pole called a stave. Very useful for walking, pioneering, carrying heavy items, weighing and measuring
- A lanyard and whistle
- Each patrol leader had a small flag called a pennant with their patrol animal on it
- A sheath made out of rabbit skin, used to carry a knife



Well done Harry and thank you for sharing the memories of your granddad with us





Beavers Christmas Party

10th December 2018



Christmas came early for the Beavers last December, when they were treated to a fantastic party to celebrate put on by Owl and the team. The children arrived to their own bumper pack of word searches and Christmas puzzles before the crafts were brought out. The Beavers then carefully made some fantastic looking decorations for their homes including; a 'Santa stop here' door hanger, a Christmas tree, a penguin and a clever 3D snowman. All of the children really enjoyed making these lovely decorations, personalising them with all of the embellishments which I'm sure they enjoyed hanging up at home.



All the while this mega craft session was going on, the wonderful smell of Christmas dinner was wafting around the Scout Hut, making everyone feel suddenly hungry. Crafts completed, the Beavers headed upstairs for some games with the leaders, led by Toad, whilst the parent helpers and rest of the leaders cleared the tables and laid them ready for a feast. There was high excitement at the sight of crackers and party hats. The Beavers swiftly collected their Christmas Dinner and sat down to enjoy with gusto. Owl & her team had cooked up a feast of roast chicken, roast potatoes, stuffing balls, gravy and vegetables which was enjoyed by all. The parent helpers & leaders were very grateful there was enough left for them to enjoy the food too! Followed by Owl's famous treacle sponge & custard, we really couldn't have asked for a better Christmas party to round off a busy term. A huge thank you to everyone who worked tirelessly ordering and organising all of the craft activities and preparing and cooking all of the food.

Earlier in December the Beavers decorated tea light holders and coloured in and wrote Christmas cards for people who visit the Claygate Day Centre and some of the people who receive Meals on Wheels in the local area. The recipients were very grateful and some kindly wrote the Beavers thank you cards and included messages such as; "A very big thank you for the pretty night lights in pretty decorated holders and super cards." and "Such a nice thought and nice light, I have it on each night".





Frost Camp



This year's "Frost Camp" was accurately named. Following last years' "mud camp" the forecast for this year was at least for dry, if slightly chilly conditions.

Fifteen older scouts met on the Saturday afternoon, were divided into patrols, and set about erecting tents and dining shelters in the grounds of the Scout headquarters. Fires were lit and food prepared.

A campfire was also lit to keep the leaders warm! A group of scouts were involved in building a construction out of wooden poles and lots of rope, to be used for the following morning's Going-Up Ceremony. After dinner the scouts were allowed a short time inside to warm up and have a talk about leadership skills. Hot chocolate was provided before we sent them out to test the efficiency of their sleeping bags.

They all survived the night (with a few boys creeping inside in the early hours) and awoke to a hard frost and -4 degrees. Happily, a hearty cooked breakfast was being prepared for them as part of the going up ceremony.

A team of Scouts travelled to Molesey to represent the group at the Scouting Skills competition while the rest took down and hung up the tents.

By midday we were all ready to head to our comfy and warm homes. Group camp in May will be a doddle after this!



Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme at 1st Claygate



For the last 18 months 1st Claygate has been delivering the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme (DofE) directly within the group to those in Explorers and Network. Autumn 2018 saw the achievement of their Bronze Award by seven of our Explorer Scouts. We currently have 11 working on their Silver Awards and 4 on their Gold. (See Page 9)

Why are we doing this and what are the benefits of a DofE Award?

DofE is a voluntary, non-competitive programme of activities for anyone aged 14-24. Doing DofE gives young people the opportunity to experience new activities or develop existing skills.

There are three progressive levels of programmes which, when successfully completed, lead to a Bronze, Silver or Gold Award. Young people create their own DofE programme by choosing volunteering, physical and skills activities, going on an expedition and, for their Gold only, taking part in a residential activity. See the page opposite for an overview of the time scales involved.

The DofE is delivered through a number of licensed providers, of which The Scout Association is one of the largest in the country. Within the group, we have several Scout Leaders who are also authorised DofE Leaders/Supervisors so that the DofE can be delivered in accordance with the principles of both Scouting and DofE.

Within Scouting, the three DofE Awards link directly to the Chief Scout's Platinum, Diamond and Queen's Scout Awards. This is the core reason for us to take ownership of the delivery of the DofE for our young people, so that we can support their achievement of these higher scouting awards. To achieve these scouting awards, in addition to the relevant DofE level, young people have to spend a certain number of nights away (including under canvass) and also complete a number of International, Community and Values orientated activities.

A Duke of Edinburgh's Award is so much more than a 'pat on the back' for completing a programme of activities. It is recognition of a young person's successful journey of self-discovery and development, recognised by employers and universities alike for the qualities young people have who've achieved a DofE Award.

Its balanced programme develops the whole person – mind, body and soul - in an environment of social interaction and team working:

- achieving an Award provides skills, confidence and a view on life that everyone is looking for, from employers to colleges and universities.
- participants get recognised for doing things they want to do (and may even be doing already), such as playing football or a musical instrument.
- participants can make a difference to other people's lives and our community, be fitter and healthier and have memories to last a lifetime.

DofE provides our young people with an additional dimension to their scouting adventure and we are very pleased to be able to support this development. Look out for future articles which will focus on the different activities – physical, volunteering, skills and expeditions - which make up the DofE Awards.

Jonathan Perkins, DofE Leader, dofe@claygatescouts.org



Chris helps Lions cubs with pioneering as a Young Leader for his DofE Volunteering Activity



Seven brave Bronze DofE'ers are ready for their Expedition under the guidance of leader Mark Burrows



We've finished !

BRONZE

Volunteering 3 months

Physical 3 months

Skills 3 months

Expedition 2 days 1 night



PLUS a further 3 months in the Volunteering, Physical or Skills section.

SILVER

Volunteering 6 months

Physical one section for 6 months, the other for 3 months

Skills

Expedition 3 days 2 nights



Direct entrants must do a further 6 months in the Volunteering, or the longer of the Physical or Skills sections.

GOLD

Volunteering 12 months

Physical one section for 12 months, the other for 6 months

Skills

Expedition 4 days 3 nights



Residential 5 days 4 nights

Direct entrants must do a further 6 months in the Volunteering, or the longer of the Physical or Skills sections.

How long does a
DofE programme
take to complete?



Each section

1 HOUR

average per week

STARTING AGES:



All Awards must be completed
by the participant's 25th birthday



Fundraising Updates

Christmas Post 2018



Continuing a long tradition, the Scout Troop organised and ran the Christmas Post service in the village again this year. All the Scouts were involved in delivering cards with parents and scouts also involved with four sorting sessions at the headquarters.

Parents also helped with collecting the post from the distinctive yellow mailboxes which had been placed around the village. As well as providing a valuable service to the community, the funds raised were split between the group and the Scouts' chosen charity Shelter. In all, **£660 was raised**.

Well done to everyone!



Claygate Beer Festival Fri 7th June and Sat 8th June 2019

Following the success of our inaugural beer festival in 2018, we are planning an **even bigger Festival this year**.

We are working to secure up to **32 different beers and ciders**. We are also planning a range of street food this year.

The Festival will be held on the evenings of **Friday 7th and Saturday 8th June**, from 6-10pm, for 18+ only. We will again hold a **family afternoon from noon-4pm on Saturday** with a bouncy castle and other fun activities for children.

We encourage you to buy tickets in advance – last year we sold out completely for the first two sessions. **Tickets will be £5** (including a free collectors' glass) and will be available to purchase online from early April.



More details will be available in March on the website: **www.claygatebeerfestival.org**





Carols around the Camp Fire

We launched into Christmas – and formally ended the last term of 2018 – with a carol service with a Scouting twist! Yes, it was carols ... but round the camp fire too. This was the third year we have held this event, and it proved to be another great evening.

The evening was led by our own band. To get us underway, there was a candle lit procession through the grounds and woods at Scout HQ, with the camp fire crackling and the band quietly playing. We then sang carols round the camp fire and Hugh led a reading so that we all remembered the meaning of Christmas. Returning through the candlelit pathway, we went back to the Scout Centre for mince pies, mulled wine and refreshments provided superbly well as always by Debbie, Ed and friends. A very Scouting Santa also paid a visit to the Beavers!!!

After the break, the band led us with some great Christmas songs – including a very entertaining “Twelve Days of Christmas” in which everyone entered into the spirit with gusto!



The evening proved to be a great way to end the Scouting year, combining Christmas and Scouting traditions. It was great to see so many people attend.



Bronze DofE Award Presentation



During the Carols round the campfire event, we were also able to present well-deserved awards to some of our Explorer Scouts who have completed their DoE Awards:

Congratulations to Jack, Alex, Mackenzie, Archie, Tom & Josh who were presented with their Bronze awards.



Also to David & Emma who received their Silver award badges.



We look forward to further success at next level awards in 2019.



2018 Cub Fundraising at Claygate Lights

This year the Cubs from all 3 packs chose Make a Wish as their chosen charity to raise funds for.

All Cubs took part baking and make items for sale at the Light and at the Group's carols round the campfire.

A number of Cubs even took on the challenge to selling our items. After both events a grand total of £470 was raised, one of our higher totals.

Well done to all!!



District Games Competition

EXPLORERS

Last year's District Games Competition took place just before Christmas and the unit entered 3 teams.

In total 14 teams entered from 8 different units and the games included, Rugby 15, Skittles, Table Tennis, Le Mans & Darts. The 3 unit teams performed well finishing 1st, 6th & 11th

The win moved the unit up into 2nd place in the overall Scope Trophy competition.



District Winter Activity Weekend

WOW – what a fantastic weekend although we almost didn't make it to our base for the weekend, Scammondon Activity Centre, because of snow covering the last 200 meters of tarmac. Not to be beaten some of the Explorers spent ½ hour clearing the snow and we finally arrived at about 12.30am.

Saturday – we split into 6 walking groups to cover various routes over the Peak District and South Pennines. There was lots of training going on with one group checking out part of the 4 Inns route (to be attempted in April) and another ate their lunch inside their survival shelter!

Sunday – 4 groups walked out from and back to the activity centre whilst another group visited an indoor climbing wall in Huddersfield.



The weekend involved Explorers and Leaders from 1st Claygate, Hinchley Wood, Ajax, The Dittons & Weston Green Explorer Units and was such a success that next year's trip, to the Brecon Beacons in Wales, has already been booked.





Cubs Chess Tournament



Every two years Esher District organise a chess tournament for the cubs. Cubs play a series of matches on a ladder system, and compete both as part of a team, and as individuals, earning points according to whether they win, draw or lose each match. Ellis from Lynx pack took part and wrote this account of the event shortly afterwards.

“A couple of weeks ago I attended a chess tournament. In the tournament we started off playing a random person and the choice of which colour you were (black or white) was also completely random. After a couple of rounds of that we went outside for a run around. We then went back inside and repeated the process. In the end I came joint second with Natalie from Lion pack. I really enjoyed my time playing there.”

In the team competition the 1st Claygate Team, a joint Lynx / Lions effort, came 1st overall with 34 points to the second placed team – a joint Ajax / Oxshott team.

Numbers entering this event have fallen over the years, and the Scout competition has now stopped due to lack of entries. It would be good to see more cubs entering in the future, and to continue with the competition. So do encourage cubs to try chess club at school if it is offered. They could claim a hobbies badge if they attend regularly and develop their skills.

Katie Ernest – Akela Lynx Pack

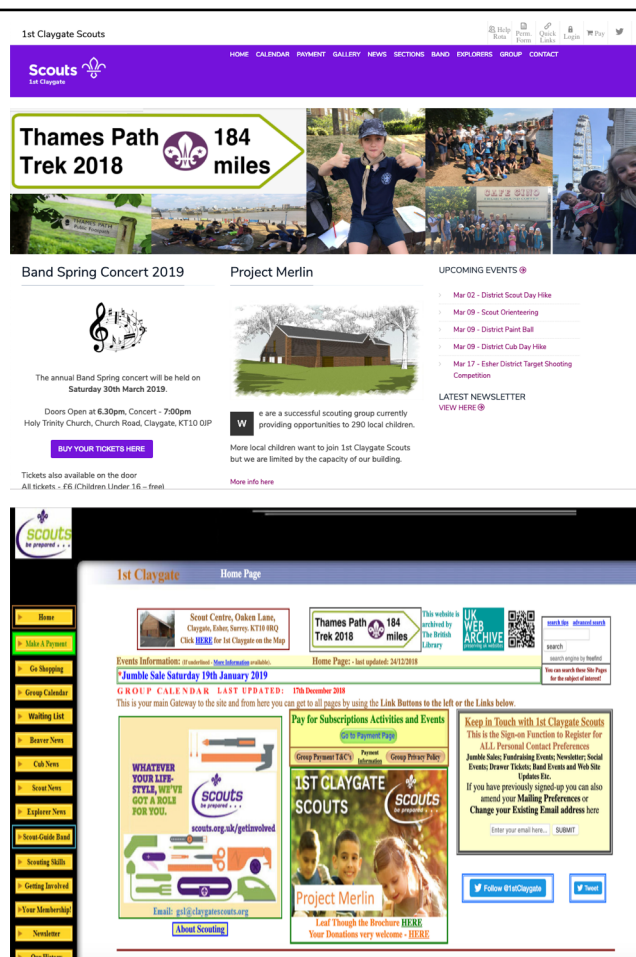
New Website Launched

As we entered the new year we launched a re-vamped website - we hope you like the new look and feel as much as we do.

We'd like to take the opportunity to thank John Wright, who has run our website brilliantly for so many years. It has been a pleasure to work with John on the website and the fact that it achieved British Library accreditation is down to his hard work. We have been known in Scouting for having an up to date website which is no mean achievement.

The previous website was launched in the '90s moving to the claygatescouts.org address in 2002 and from then we've never looked back. The old site can still be visited by going to <http://archive.claygatescouts.org>

The mantle for the website now passes to Rhid Tinkler, who will be running the website and if you have any comments, requests or questions please contact us at: webmaster@claygatescouts.org



<http://www.claygatescouts.org>





Escapade 19

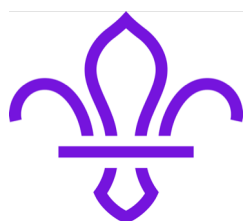
Every year the cubs are invited to attend a District camp, but every third year we hold a District camp for all sections - beavers, cubs, scouts and explorers. 2019 is one of those years for the full camp.

"Escapade 2019" will take place at Walton Firs from 21st to 23rd June and all sections are invited to attend. the weekend involves many games, activities, campfires and all Groups from Esher District are involved.



You will shortly receive information from the section leaders about both 1st Claygate Group Camp (17th-19th May) and Escapade 2019.

Both Camps are great events and allow the young people to take part in a range of activities.



Subscriptions 2019/2020



Termly subscriptions are used to meet recurrent expenditure – insurance, gas and electricity, cleaning, maintenance of the Scout Centre and grounds, running and maintaining our two minibuses and van and our annual subscription to National Scouts HQ, Surrey County and Esher District.

Subs for 2019/20 have been set by the Group Exec at £49 per term, applicable from April, a £1 per term increase over 2018/19.

The Group is grateful to all those parents who pay subscriptions by Gift Aid. This allows us to reclaim basic rate income tax on the subs payments. Without this, subs would need to be over £60 per term.

If anyone needs more details about how to make payments via Gift Aid, please get in touch with the treasurer at treasurer@claygatescouts.org.



People's Parade - Armistice 100



11 o'clock, on the 11th November, 2018. A time for remembering the suffering and sacrifices by so many people during World War 1, exactly 100 years since the signing of the Armistice. What a huge honour it was for the 1st Claygate Scout and Guide Band to be invited by the Government to take part in the national People's Parade in Central London. It was an amazing experience - something I'm sure the whole band will remember for a long time to come.

We had an early morning on the Sunday, so our coach could get into central London before the road closures were enforced. We had to wait just off the Mall (for a very long time!), but were able to mill around with the crowds. 10,000 members of the public had applied to march the parade route, and they were all lined up along the length of the Mall. It was an electric atmosphere and an amazing site.

As 11 o'clock approached, we – along with the 5 other bands taking part in the parade – formed up on steps leading down to the Mall to observe the minute's silence. We were able to hear Big Ben strike 11, the Bugle call from Whitehall and then the gun salute.

The People's Parade, involving 10,000 members of the public, followed the annual veterans' parade. The route took us from the Mall, into Trafalgar Square, along Whitehall and past the Cenotaph and into Parliament Square. Then along Birdcage Walk, in front of Wellington Barracks and then in front of Buckingham Palace, before returning up the Mall. The response from the crowds along the route was superb – and it's just such a brilliant experience to be able to march and play past such iconic London sights.

As expected, the band performed superbly well. The sound was amazing – and marching on top form. Feedback from people on social media after the event was very positive about the band. And some American tourists mistook the sound of our band for another military band!

We were all proud to be representing the Group and Claygate in such a major national event. The band once again stepped up to deliver an amazing performance – **well done to everyone.**



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.





(The band at the Menin Gate, Ypres – September 2018)

1st Claygate Scout & Guide Band Annual Spring Concert

Saturday 30th March 2019

Doors - 6.30pm

Concert - 7:00pm

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

For details of how to buy tickets please go to:

<http://band.claygatescouts.org>

(and click on the links)

Tickets also available on the door

All tickets - £6

(Children Under 16 – free)

Any inquiries to: bandinfo@claygatescouts.org

Dates for the Diary



As ever, we have a wide range of activities for 2019, the indicative calendar is set out on the back page of the newsletter. This will enable you to detach it and pin it to your notice board at home. As ever some dates change so the calendar is available on the Group website, so always check, or you can sign up for updates.

MONTH & DATE	EVENT	Beaver Scouts	Cub Scouts	Scouts	Explorer Scouts	Network Scouts	SASU	Band	Group Support
March									
02nd	District Scout Day Hike (District)			SCOUTS					
09th	Scout Orienteering (District)			SCOUTS					
09th	District Cub Day Hike (District)								
17th	Esher District Target Shooting Competition (District)			SCOUTS					
23rd	Maintenance Day Scout Centre								X
24th	District Cross Country Run (District)			SCOUTS	EXPLORERS	network+			
26th	District Wide Game (District)				EXPLORERS				
30th	Band Concert 30th March (Holy Trinity Church, Claygate)								
April									
04th	New Parents and Link Meeting Scout Centre			SCOUTS	EXPLORERS				
05th-07th	4 Inns Walk (Explorers/Network) (Peak District)				EXPLORERS	network+			
06th	County CASCADE Training Scout Centre								X
06th	Scout Orienteering			SCOUTS					
10th	Group Executive Meeting								X
27th	Jumble Sale Scout Centre								X
27th	Claygate Cleanup Claygate Village			SCOUTS	EXPLORERS				X
28th	St George's Day Parade TBA			SCOUTS	EXPLORERS	network+			X
May									
10th-12th	Plant Sale Scout Centre								X
15th	Group Executive Meeting Scout Centre								X
17th-19th	Group Camp (GAW) Polyapes Camp Site			SCOUTS	EXPLORERS	network+			X
June									
07th-08th	Claygate Beer Festival Scout Centre								X
14th-16th	County Scout Pioneer Camp Bentley Copse			SCOUTS					
21st-23rd	District Camp (escapade 19) (District - Walton Firs Camp Site)			SCOUTS	EXPLORERS	network+			X
22nd	County Scram								
24th	District Explorer 'Raft-less Race' (District)				EXPLORERS				
28th-30th	DofE Practice Expeditions Sussex				EXPLORERS	network+			
30th	District Archery Competition (District)			SCOUTS	EXPLORERS				