



June 2019



Welcome to Summer!

The Summer Term is already running with a high tempo of activities for all of the young people fully enjoying Scouting in the outdoors. We've already had two major camps with record attendances: the Group Camp just before half term with 200 young people on site at Polyapes over the weekend, and almost half our Group attended the District Camp last weekend, held every 3 years. Everyone seemed to have a fantastic time, and a big thank you to all the parent helpers and leaders who turned out to support the camps. Our paddle-sports activity is also thriving with our kayaks out almost every weekend over the summer.

We have been busy with fundraising, with over £10,000 raised via the Jumble Sale, the Summer Bedding Plant Sale (which made a record surplus) and the second Claygate Beer Festival. The latter was a big success with over 700 attendees - 150 more than last year despite the cooler and wetter weather. The Beer Festival will, I'm sure, become one of the regular features of the Claygate summer scene. Thanks to everyone who helped on all three fundraisers – without your dedication we would be unable to provide such a broad scouting provision for our young people.

You will shortly see evidence of the start of our extension, Project Merlin, which will see our current upstairs meeting room double in size. The building contract has been signed and the work is due for completion in October. This will enable us to open another Beaver Colony and Cub Pack in the new year, and thus start to tackle our long waiting list of eligible young people who want to join 1st Claygate but for which we can't currently provide a place. The new Sections will require additional leaders, though, and we plan to hold meetings next term to explain to parents the ways in which you can help ensure the two new sections are successful. If anyone wishes to express an early wish to become involved, feel free to email me on gsl@claygatescouts.org and we can meet for an informal chat.



The cost of Project Merlin has been met from a mix of Group reserves and fundraising, grants from councils and philanthropic organisations and individuals, and special activities by the whole group – notably the Thames Path Trek last July. We have been successful in meeting our target fundraising of £350,000 – in fact we have exceeded it and the total currently stands at £375,000. This is fortunate as the building costs have come in higher than we anticipated, and we therefore need to raise closer to £400,000 to complete the project in full. We will allocate our fundraising for a third year to part bridge the gap, but if anyone has access to funds, e.g. through workplace matching schemes, or would simply like to donate, please get in touch with our Treasurer, Gary, at treasurer@claygatescouts.org. Additionally I will be undertaking the Claygate 5 Mile Run in July to raise funds via sponsorship – if you are able to support me, please do so via <https://www.gofundme.com/project-merlin> - all donations very welcome.

Scouts and Explorers are off on Summer Camp at the end of July, thus ending a bumper summer of activity. I wish all of you a pleasant summer break and look forward to seeing you all, suitably refreshed, in September.

Hugh

<http://www.claygatescouts.org>



Beavers Group Activity Weekend



While NASA is working on the goal to transport astronauts to the Moon by 2024, Beavers were set their own mission to create a space suit and build a space craft to be used in the relay game. Yes, you guessed correctly, this year's theme for the Beaver section was space.

Space mission control was located at Polyapes Camp Site where 73 Beavers joined the leaders and lots of parent helpers.

Beavers were taken to explore the campsite and find out first hand what the other sections get up to at camp. Toad even managed to locate the Explorers who were building their overnight shelters deep in the woods. During their walk they heard a bit of history about Polyapes and the statue of a boy Scout that was commissioned in 1929 to commemorate those scouts who lost their lives in the First and Second World War.



During the afternoon Beavers rotated to take part in the various bases: astronaut shirts, moon flags, planet hoopla, astronaut jet packs, space invaders with water guns, slide into space (a bouncy slide) and building of a space craft.

Just before dinner we had the big finale with a relay race involving all the teams wearing their crafted space items.

Talking about food, for lunch we had hot dogs and jelly rockets, for dinner Sheppard's pie with peas and sweet corn and sticky toffee cake with custard as dessert.

Break

fast was cereal and eggy bread with bacon, a firm favorite with Beavers and adults alike. Thank you to Debbie, Kim and Sue for cooking such delicious meals.

We managed to fit in an Investiture Ceremony for our new Beaver intake just before the campfire. The atmosphere at the campfire was great, as we joined John Baldwin in singing some super campfire songs and watched sketches brought by the Scouts and the Explorers.

Around 52 Beavers stayed overnight in the Mowgli hut who after the bedtime story and the classic torch game





Beavers Group

Activity Weekend

all fell asleep under the watchful eye of Owl. All Beavers slept really well.

On Sunday morning some Beavers were presented with their Bronze Award.

We also said goodbye and good luck to those Beavers moving up to the Cub section during the Going up Ceremony.

It was a great weekend! Beavers had a fantastic time.

Thank you very much to all the Leaders and helpers who made sure that GAW was a great weekend.

We could not have done it without the massive support and help from the parents.

Thank you again for volunteering.



The Jungle Book wins Cubs Top Tent competition



This year's theme for Cubs GAW was classic and modern classic children's books. We had 12 patrol tents of Cubs from all 3 packs enjoying a weekend outside, learning life skills and completing a 3rd night of their Outdoor Challenge Badge. On Saturday they built shelters in the woods, learnt about the Country Code, built camp gadgets with staves and rope, learnt some basic first aid, learnt about looking after themselves and the canvas while on camp and cooked their lunch on fires.

There were lots of Cubs on camp and although this generally can mean lots of noise the cubs were very well behaved and went to sleep on both nights without much fuss. There were a few tents that lost points in the morning before the official wake up time but I'll gloss over that!

Saturday night's hotly anticipated campfire by our resident camp fire leader Hatti (John Baldwin) was a great success with the Cubs leading every one with a campfire song, Penguins on Patrol.

After the campfire, over a mug of hot chocolate, the Cubs completed a quiz about the books that were the tent names. Does anyone know where Michael and Jane Banks live? Or what George put in his marvellous medicine? Or where the Ice Monster was found?

Sunday was very grey and dismal and although we had to strike tents wet and hang them back up at the scout centre the Cubs' spirits didn't waver. After the going up ceremony we went in to the woods and collected natural items to build a picture. It could be of anything. Rama and I were pleasantly surprised by the standard of work and the team effort that everyone put in. Ok so there were points on offer but the results were brilliant.



Congratulation to the those Cubs on GAW who overcame challenges (you know who you are) and to the tent competition winners Jungle Book, closely followed by Gangster Granny as runners up.



Lastly a special thank you to all the leaders and parent helpers as without you the weekend would not have happened.

Catherine,
Akela Lion Pack



Group Camp - Troop



The Troop had 52 Scouts camping for two nights at Polyapes, including a record 22 girls! The Scouts' first task was to erect their patrol tents and dining shelters and quickly too, given the darkening skies. Having practiced the art of putting up a patrol tent many times over the years, most were able to complete the task and store their kit before a light drizzle began. Patrol Leaders had been assigned the job of buying all the food for their patrol for the weekend. This was stored in a hike tent and the scouts began to set up stoves and prepare a snack, which for most patrols consisted of the culinary delights of a pot noodle or hot dog.



The Scouts were up early on Saturday morning preparing cooked breakfast and getting their tents ready for inspection. After the flag ceremony they were involved in sessions of camping skills, archery and orienteering. Each patrol had to construct a chopping area and wet pit and to gather and chop wood ready for the fires on which they would prepare their evening meals. The year 9 Scouts retreated to the woods to build shelters that they were planning to spend the night in and the year 8 scouts built a pioneering construction to be used in Sunday's going-up ceremony.



The patrols got their fires going in the late afternoon and started to prepare their evening meals. Most of the dishes, including tacos, meatballs and pasta dishes looked quite edible. After dinner we joined the rest of the group for the traditional campfire. As usual, each patrol had practised a sketch to perform. Some were new and others were old favourites – the 'John Lewis' sketch made a return after a few years' break due to popular demand from the Scouts.



On Sunday morning the year 9 scouts returned from their night in the woods. The weather had been kind to them with no rain overnight (probably just as well looking at some of the shelters) and they re-joined their patrols for breakfast. After the going-up ceremony the Scouts had the arduous task of dismantling everything and loading stuff on the vans. Unfortunately a little light rain in the morning meant that all the tents would have to be hung up to dry at the Scout centre later. This, and the putting away of all the kit was achieved with great efficiency thanks to the help of the Scouts (and quite a few parents) who came back to the Scout Centre after the close of camp.



The final task was to award the prizes to the winners of the patrol competition. The leaders had predicted that the winners would be one of the girls' patrols and sure enough Rosina's patrol were awarded the prize but only by the smallest of margins with Alex's patrol in second place. Scouts who came to the Troop meeting on Monday were able to practise their tent packing skills again as we put away the dry kit. We'll be doing it all again for District Camp in June.



Where were the Explorers?

You might have thought they had given GAW a miss and stayed at home.

But look closer, tucked away down in the Whistle Stop was a community of Explorers busy building shelters and collecting wood for fires to keep them warm throughout the night.

They gathered under the communal parachute, lunch was being prepared, a feast of pork and vegetarian kebabs and talk of plans for the 9 visiting upcoming scouts.

The Scouts, under supervision from the explorers, set out to build a camp sauna. Using a few hazel branches, sisal, a tin bucket, bricks (that had been in the fire since breakfast) and some tarps, the sauna was constructed and was judged a success.

Thoughts now turned to the main evening event.

As it was Eurovision weekend it was decided that a Toto tribute band would be formed to make a late entry with the classic song 'Africa' to be performed at the campfire gig.

A good night was had by all and ended with a jamming session round the fire till far to late.

Sunday was all hands on deck striking their camps then helping the rest of the group pack away. Again the Explorers used great initiative to make the job easier by lashing a trolley to a bike!

Great fun was had by all!





Cub Day Hike



The Cub Day Hike is organised by Esher District and cubs from all packs in the District take part – getting their first experience of walking and an opportunity to earn credit towards their adventure challenge and navigator awards. Cubs walk in groups with adults along a route of usually around 4 miles with a target time of 3 hours – a challenging distance for younger cubs.

This year's Cub Day Hike took place in the Dorking area, starting and finishing at the Denbies Wine Estate, on a windy day in March – although luckily in a clear window between two rainy days. Three teams from 1st Claygate took part – one from Lion pack, one from Lynx pack and a mixed team from all three packs.

The teams arrived and were given their co-ordinates to plot – 6 figure grid references requiring cubs to remember “along the corridor before you go up the stairs” to find the right points on the map. Once the route had been plotted and checked by the organisers, the teams set off to walk the route with a quiz to complete along the way – which gives the cubs something to look out for, and also acts as a handy check that the group is on the correct route ! This year's route included walking through fields and wooded areas, and a short stretch along a minor road, and ended with a spectacular view across the Denbies Wine Estate and the surrounding countryside – and all the time the cubs had the opportunity to see how the map in front of them relates to the landscape they can see.

The cubs taking part enjoyed themselves – a common question at the beginning of the walk was “When is it lunchtime?” followed by “Are we there yet?” – to which the reply in one case was “I don't know, you have the map,” and the cub in question responded “I know we are not but my feet are hurting so I was just asking ...!!”



All the cubs completed the route – Lion pack enjoying the company of Alice the dog, and sprinting down the hill to finish the route in the target 3 hours – and a lot of tired cubs no doubt nodded off in the car on the way home, and slept well that night.

Thank you as always to the parents who walked with the groups – we need your support to safely take part in the event and have adequate cover in the event of an emergency.

Katie Ernest – Akela-Lynx.



Scouts - District Day Hike, Sat 2nd March



The week leading up to the event saw records being broken as we enjoyed the warmest February on record. With colder stormier weather on the horizon, we were blessed with the last of the fine weather as four teams of scouts headed for Chobham.

Upon arrival, each team went through inspection and plotted the route before heading out. The circular walk took in sights such as Fair Oaks Airport, Stanners Hill and Chobham Common before returning to base. Along the way, teams had to answer a variety of questions about the things they could see.

Our two competition teams were headed up by Adam and Leon. These teams walked on their own and earned points for accurate navigation and correctly answering questions. By the end of the event, they had both completed the full course within the time limit, but had unfortunately missed out on a few questions, which cost them some marks. Our two teams ended up tying for sixth place among the competition teams, which is a very creditable result.

The younger scouts walked in training teams accompanied by leaders, but otherwise undertook the same challenge. They learnt a lot about navigation skills and also completed a 15km hike through the countryside. In addition to completing the walk, both teams scored well on the questions and came equal second overall in the event.

Thanks to Patrick McTurk, Caroline Li, Erin McGarrity, Rachel Wilkinson & Robin Wilkinson for their help on the day.



District Cross Country Run – March 2019

We could not have asked for a better setting for our annual Esher District Run. What a glorious spring Sunday morning in Oxshott Wood! Families made the most of the exceptionally warm weather; chatting, cheering and enjoying the great outdoors with family and friends. Some even brought along their deck chairs. Tea, coffee and cake were provided by the 1st Oxshott Scout Group for a small fee.

There was a great buzz as runners tried to get as close as possible to the starting line.

The Beaver and Cubs' route was about 3 Km (1.75 miles) and parents of Beavers were encouraged to join to race. The route for Scouts, Explorer Scouts and Network was about 5 Km (3 Miles).

The winning group for each section was presented with a small trophy. This gets calculated by adding the finishing positions of the top 4 runners per section and per group. The lowest score wins the trophy for that section and has their group's name engraved on it. Great big team effort!

The 2019 group results :

Beavers: 1. Dittons (23 points) 2. Oxshott (53) 3. Claygate (54)
Cubs: 1. Dittons (27) 2. Claygate (29) 3. Hinchley Wood (34)
Scouts: 1. Dittons (18) 2. 2nd Molesey (19) 3. Claygate (27)
Explorers: 1. Dittons
Adults: 1. Oxshott

A huge congratulation to the Dittons winning all the sections (bar the adults).

Fastest runners 3 Km route :

Cubs male : Thomas P, 1st Claygate
Cubs female : Aahna W, 1st Claygate
Beaver male : 2nd Molesey
Beaver male Claygate : Ben N
Beaver female: Hinchley Wood
Beaver female Claygate : Cleo C

Time 13.01
Time 14.50
Time 15.09
Time 15.51
Time 17.13
Time 19.56

Fastest runners 5 Km route :

Explorer male
Scouts male : Hinchley Wood
Scouts male Claygate : Luke S
Scouts female : Lydia A , 1st Claygate
Time 21.42
Time 24.10
Time 26.14
Time 31.05

Time 21.42
Time 24.10
Time 26.14



Well done to all who participated in trying to gain the trophies, all the enthusiastic supporters and the many marshals making sure nobody got lost.





4 Inns Walk EXPLORERS



Twenty-four 1st Claygate Explorer Scouts and those who have recently gone up to The Scout Network competed in The Four Inns on the 6th of April.

The Four Inns, which has taken place annually since 1957, is run by Derbyshire County Scout Council, and is regarded by many as the premier Scout organised distance hillwalking event.

There are two routes: a 35 km (21¾ mile) shorter course and the classic 65 km (40½ mile) course, each covering some of the most challenging moorland terrain and hills in the Peak District.



Three teams of twelve Explorers completed the 35 km course. Four teams of twelve Explorers, Network Scouts and leaders undertook the 65 km course. Our 35 km teams placed second, third and fourth in The Four Inns 35K competition, open to teams of Explorer Scouts or Guides under 18 without an adult leader.

One of the 65 km teams comprising Kathryn, Elloise and Emma placed third in the Fastest Novice Scout Team competition (of first time competitors) and third in the Fastest Scout Team - all members under 25 competition.

An excellent time was had by everyone and the Group is looking forward to next year's event.

Additional resources:

<https://www.derbyshirescouts.org/fourinns/>



4 Inns Walk

EXPLORERS



Band Performs with musicians from the Scots Guards



The band's annual concert took on a special twist this year as they were joined by 11 members of the Band of the Scots Guards. The Scots Guards have been supporting the band over the last few months, joining us for two rehearsals as well as offering our band the chance to see them perform in their ceremonial role in London – a concert at Wellington Barracks and more recently at the Beating Retreat on Horse Guards Parade, central London.

Our concert – which once again took place at Holy Trinity Church in March - was a great success. The band always performs to a high standard, but they were lifted even further this year through the participation of the Scots Guardsmen. As always, the full band took to the stage during the first half, with the Training and Junior Bands playing three pieces on their own (and doing so very very well). In the second half, the Senior Band took centre-stage and performed a range of pieces – including music from Les Misérables; music from the film Pirates of the Caribbean; music from Andrew Lloyd Webber and a great collection of the music of Stevie Wonder. Three of the pieces were conducted by the Scots Guard's Bandmaster, Warrant Officer Joe Barrett.

Our own Will Smith played a superb Trumpet solo during the first half, and a highlight of the second half was a brilliant Alto Sax solo by Corporal Stephen Shepherd of the Scots Guards.

It was a great opportunity for the band to play alongside such amazing musicians and feedback from the audience was very positive too. Well done to the whole band. You've once again set the bar even higher!

Looking ahead, the band will be playing at the Claygate Flower Show in July, and will once again be taking part in the Lord Mayor's Show in central London in November.



Scouts Gold Expedition : Wey Navigation



Over the weekend of 8th / 9th June, two groups of Scouts took part in an overnight hiking expedition along the Wey Navigation canal. For some this counted towards their Chief Scout's Gold award, whilst others were completing their Duke of Edinburgh bronze expedition. Read on to hear about it in their own words ...

Planning the event (Thomas)

The Monday before we set off for the expedition, we had to plan our route and our starting point was Bower's Lock (in Burpham). We then followed the navigation canal to Wisley village and then followed a public footpath through a golf course to the campsite near the RHS garden. For day 2, we planned to set off from the campsite, cross over the M25 and re-join the canal near Byfleet. We then followed it all the way to the end point at Hurst Park on the Thames.

Packing and preparation (Charlie)

We got to the scout centre at 9am and packed pots and other stuff, then left. The bags were heavy. After that we went to the start in the scout van. We also learned how to use the gas stoves and made sandwiches. T'was fun.

Expedition objective (Toby)

Our aim of the trip was to investigate the locks and the riverside navigation. At the start we went to Bower's lock and saw how the locks worked and what their uses were. Canals are human made as opposed to a river. A canal is known as a navigation when it is next to a river and gets water from it. Canals are very slow moving and they don't have a flow.

Day 1 – Saturday (Eric)

We left the car park and headed on our way, we walked across a small bridge and our map reader said "hey guys, I think we're supposed to crawl through this BUSH over here!". So we all agreed for whatever reason and we found ourselves lost in a stinging nettle with no pathway. So we found ourselves climbing through the nettles.

We climbed over a fence and I started to fall behind, the rest of the group was standing on a wooden plank across a small ditch. They greeted me and next thing I knew I found myself tripping over a "pebble" and I rolled down the ditch, I was laughing, the rest of my group was laughing, it was a pretty funny time. That is until I started sinking, the ditch I had rolled in wasn't just a ditch, it was an overgrown RIVER. Our group leader shouted "somebody hold my bag". And after I got out, changed my clothes, we headed on our way. The rest of the walk was pretty simple, we just had to follow the river and that was that.

Overnight Camp (Emma)

We got to the campsite at around 5pm and had a small break. Once we had had a break we decided to set up our tents and our sleeping bags. Next we started up the stoves and boiled the water for our dinner. The dinner wasn't that bad. Once we all had dinner at around 7pm the other group came along. They ended up



Scouts Gold Expedition : Wey Navigation (cont.)

finishing dinner at around 8pm. While they were eating we just sat in our tent and had a great time talking about how our team member pushed us hard because he wouldn't let us have a break. Then a few people played rounders and we all went to bed.

Day 2 – Sunday (Joe)

We set off at 9.30am because the other group wanted to leave at 9.15am and we had to leave 15 minutes later. We walked along the river and then walked into Byfleet. After being questioned 10 million times and stopped by dogs a lot, we finally made it to the halfway point. The second half of the walk was full of 30 minute breaks. We finally made it to the end physically and mentally drained.

As you can see, it was a challenging and event filled weekend and the groups certainly earned their expedition badges, covering more than 30km over the weekend and dealing with adversity with good grace.

Many thanks to the Paul and Tom for their help over the weekend and also to the beer festival team who happily worked around us as we filled the scout hall with tents, stoves, rucksacks, food and scouts whilst they were preparing for a busy afternoon session.

Mark Woodward



Flower Show BBQ 13th July 2019 - 1:30pm



All Change at the Claygate Flower Show!

This year the 1st Claygate Group will be providing the BBQ at the Flower Show.

Please sign up to help, on the website in the usual way

For many years I have been asked why we have not been the provider, bearing in mind our experience in providing catering for the Group and its members. We are proud to be helping out the flower show in this way.

More details here at this website or scan the QR code to the right.

<https://www.claygateflowershow.co.uk/>

Hugh



Claygate Clean Up 2019

The Group once again joined the Community in Giving Claygate a spring clean. This is the event organised by the Parish Council. We concentrated our efforts of the whole of Claygate Common (Beavers and Cubs). The Scouts took on the greens in the area opposite the Swan and the adjacent footpaths.

The photos show the rubbish and some of the somewhat strange items collected. The attendees did not complete a badge, but their attendance has been logged against parts of awards in each of the sections.





JOIN THE CELEBRATION!

St. George's Day: A Celebration of Scouting



Over 500 members from the following groups 1st Claygate. 1st Cobham 3rd Esher, 1st Hinchley Wood and 1st Oxshott attended.

It was great to see members from 3rd Esher as this was their first parade after the group starting in March this year

The Parade was led by 1st Claygate Scout and Guide Band and went from the Car Park near the COOP in Hare Lane to Holy Trinity church and back after the service. The route was lined by family members, local residents and customers from the pubs and restaurant who came out to the sound of the band.

In the church members renewed their promises and it was even more special as 2 leaders from 3rd Esher were invested as leaders.

The theme of the service was 'courage' and as part of the service we watched a clip by Bear Grylls (Chief Scout) on explaining caves in Malaysia, which was really inspiring and relevant to the theme

