



October 2021

## Chairman's Update

The past 18 months has presented challenges that few of us could have foreseen. In true Scouting spirit, the team at 1st Claygate has risen to the tasks at hand. Whether it be leaders learning to use Zoom for the first time, or literally dozens of risk assessments being prepared and followed, or our Assistant GSLs taking over various responsibilities while Hugh's NHS job commitments took precedence, everyone in the Group has gone the extra mile this year. For that, we should all be immensely proud.

As life begins to return to normal, it has been a pleasure to see young people making use of the extended Scout Centre. While circumstances have meant the building has not been used as much as we would like, we are well placed to offer scouting to more young people in the future. The official opening of the extension took place earlier in this month in atrocious weather conditions. The ribbon was cut by our very own Elouise Budd, a worthy recipient of the Queen's Scout Award. A number of other awards were given out at the opening, some for exceptionally long service!

It is worth mentioning one award in particular: the Silver Wolf. This was awarded to Hugh Gostling, our Group Scout Leader. This is awarded by the Chief Scout and for only the most exceptional service. I believe this is only the third time that someone at 1st Claygate has received it. Those of us familiar with the commitment that Hugh shows to Scouting would argue that it is thoroughly deserved. So on behalf of the whole Group, I would like to offer Hugh our congratulations and thanks for his service.

As always, thanks to everyone who volunteers and contributes to the success of the Group. Looking forward, we are in a great position to continue making a positive contribution to the lives of our young people through Scouting.

Stuart Ballard  
Group Chairman





# Group Update



I am delighted to welcome 24 new members to the Beaver colonies within the Group this term as we continue to provide more face to face Scouting at the Scout Centre. I know that they are having a great time at Beavers.

Our resilience as a collective of adult volunteers that is 1st Claygate Scout Group continues to provide great programmes and activities for all of the young people in our sections. Reflecting as I sometimes do, there have been 6 weeks of the term and within this period we have offered activities outside of the weekly meetings on nearly every weekend.

We held the whole group event in early October which was a splendid afternoon for over 100 of our members despite the rain, but more of that later.

My thanks to all the parents and young people who helped at the ground clearance back in September. Everyone really made a difference to the grounds, clearing vegetation and sweeping the carpark and associated tasks.

Whilst it was announced in September by the Scout Association that Scouting had gone to “green” in its readiness level rating, which meant that we could go back to face to face scouting indoors and out. However we still need to be aware that all activities must be consider the risk of transmission of COVID, hence the continued requirement for hand washing and other specific requirements that continue to apply to the young people and adults.

We ask that all parents follow government guidance should your child or any member of your family test positive for Covid 19. If your child has symptoms please do not send them to their section meeting. If they have attended a section meeting and then developed symptoms in the days/week after the meeting and receives notification of a positive PCR Test please do let me know.

As we continue to strive to achieve a new normal for us both in Scouting and in our wider community, let's continue to enjoy our Scouting as we look forward to the coming months.

Hugh Gostling  
Group Scout Leader





# Scouts Summer Activity Week - July 2021

# SCOUTS

With covid restrictions starting to lift during the summer term, the scout troop were able to plan an activity week for the start of the holidays. To allow everyone to attend, we planned for five days at the local Polyapes site, but with no overnight camping. Other than that, it was a normal camp with up to 50 scouts and leaders on site from 8am-8pm, preparing and cooking all their own meals and taking part in activities during the day.

Throughout the week, each group took part in a rotation of archery, air rifle shooting, frisbee golf, pioneering, camp skills training and a variety of outdoor games. There was also a day hike taking them away from the camp site to explore the local countryside. For the older scouts there was an opportunity for them to complete their chief scout's gold award expedition, which is usually an overnight hike but which was adapted for the restrictions in place at the time ... please read about Will P's experience of the expedition.

Overall it was great to get everyone back into the outdoors and to have relatively normal days, although the camp site felt eerily quiet once the scouts had all gone home at 8pm each evening! We're all looking forward to a full set of "proper" camps in 2022, but as Zoe C said, "It was the best fun I had in ages, especially the archery!". I think everyone who attended would agree with her.





# Scouts Summer Expedition - July 2021 by Will P

# SCOUTS

It felt strange arriving at Polyapes with no big ruck sack, sleeping bag and mat and just a day sack. I kept thinking I had left something behind at home! But it was so nice to be back after all the camp cancellations of last summer

After a good breakfast, we did a final check of our kit and route for the day, made some sandwiches to take with us for lunch, and then we were off. Day 1 involved navigating from Wey Navigation Path near Pyrford back to Polyapes. We were dropped by mini bus at Pyrford and then followed the river for the first segment of the walk and then headed towards Wisely where we got very lost. After many tries, we finally found the right path to take and managed to then complete the rest of the walk smoothly back to Polyapes without much trouble but with tired legs.

Day 2 was a walk from East Molesey back to Polyapes and this walk was a lot easier to follow as we didn't get lost on it, though there were times when we thought we had gone wrong but checking and a bit of luck meant that we ended up back at camp after a long walk without trying to figure out where on Earth we were which was very nice.

It's harder than you think trying to avoid roads and find your way, but we did it! We even managed to cross the M25 – not literally, don't worry – but over a bridge that was very hard to find.

It was a great experience, despite not being able to camp overnight in the normal way. I learned how when you are faced with a challenge, pulling together as a team always help make it easier to solve.

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## Scout Night Hike

The hike took place on a dry clear night on 9th October from 18:00 to 02:00 hrs in the Effingham area. The hike was about 10 miles if you did not get lost! There were 5 checkpoints of which 3 had activities for the Scouts to take part in.



Claygate entered 5 teams (Over 30 scouts) out of the 23 that took part. 2 were competitive teams who walked on their own and three were training teams who walked with leaders/parents. All five teams completed the course in the allowed time of 6 hours. On completion they returned to the Claygate Scout Centre where they stayed overnight.

When the result came in later in the week the competition teams came 3rd and 6th. The training teams came 7th, 10th and 14th. Well done to all those that took part and thanks to the leaders and parents who supported the event



# Claygate Clean Up

A good turn out of Beavers and Cubs got to work litter picking on Claygate Common as part of the annual Claygate Clean Up. The Scouts and Explorers focused their efforts on the lane at the end of Coverts Rd. The Clean Up is organised by Claygate Parish Council to help keep our community tidy for all local residents. It also counts towards badges and awards in each section.



With the Cubs and Beavers thoroughly scouring the Common for rubbish - and removing tyres and an abandoned hot tub as well as the more usual bottles, bags and packaging – 1st Claygate definitely did its bit to keep the common attractive and safe for walkers and other users

## Band Update

The band continues to go from strength to strength, but is always 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.



Band 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, on 01372 464173 ( robinwilkinson149@gmail.com ).

## 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 6<sup>th</sup> November , 5:30pm - 7:30pm(approx)

Price £7.00 each

Under 5 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

Please buy your tickets online via the group website : [www.claygatescouts.org](http://www.claygatescouts.org)





# Whole Group Event and Opening of Extension



This was an event we had wanted to make happen since April 2019 following the successful completion of the construction of the extension to the Scout Centre. We wanted the whole Group to be able to get together and have a range of activities along with a camp fire. Along the way we would formally open the extension and also recognise a number of adults who have received awards in Scouting for their service.

The day was all planned and everything went really well on the day. Despite the heavy rain we completed a number of activities outdoors and held the Going-Up ceremonies, but had to abandon the songs around the camp fire and hold the songs indoors instead!

We also took the opportunity to formally open the new extension to the Scout Centre, with our latest Queen's Scout, Elloise, cutting a rather damp ribbon. A number of donors to the fundraising joined us for the opening.

My thanks to everyone for their support on the day.

Can I please ask you to pass on my thanks to everyone who was involved in today's activities afternoon. Jamie had a marvellous time as did everyone else that we spoke to. Given the awful weather, all those running the afternoon did an even more exceptional job at running it than normal.

Wow! What an afternoon - I wasn't home last night when Bertie came home from his action packed afternoon but he has just come bounding in talking ten to the dozen about how much fun he had yesterday.



Hello Joe (husband said this was very entertaining - Ellooo Joe!!), purple stew, the chariots, the launches, the smores, the special award that you received, the zip wire, camp fire singing and more.

Just a wee note to say thanks for a really fun day yesterday, Anna and I thoroughly enjoyed it in spite of the rain! It was clear a huge amount of organising and preparation had gone in to all the activities and all the outdoor team did very well to stand in the rain for so long!



It was lovely to see so many kids doing 'normal' Scouting stuff after all the restrictions and to witness the awards ceremony and at the end - especially the awards to the more senior members of the group (60 years in Scouting is remarkable!) and of course, your Silver Wolf award too, Hugh. Well done again!



# Back To Rehearsals..... an update on the band



## Goodbye Zoom...

During lockdown, the band continued rehearsing over Zoom – a remarkable achievement. However, getting back to rehearsing in person on Friday evenings has been fantastic. And it's been great to see just how far the band members have developed over this period. Clearly the long hours at home during lockdown have been put to good use with lots of individual practice! Well done to all band members.



In October we held an additional Sunday afternoon rehearsal to put the band through their paces on some new and difficult pieces. We ended with an informal, evening concert for family and friends. The atmosphere was great – performing again to an audience after such a long break was something we all enjoyed. And the quality of the band's performance was excellent too.

## Looking ahead we have a busy term...

On Sunday 7 November we are leading a parade for Woking Scouts at Brookwood military cemetery. This parade has fond memories for the band, as it links to our performance in 2018 at the Menin Gate in Ypres, Belgium. In Ypres, the Last Post ceremony takes place every evening at 20:00 under the Menin Gate, one of the four memorials to 'the missing in Belgian Flanders'. The senior band had the honour of taking part in this event in 2018.

The ceremony is a homage for the 11 million military personnel that lost their lives. This tradition started on 1st July 1928 and has continued uninterrupted every evening other than during the Second World War, when Ypres fell into German hands on 20th May 1940. At this point, the ceremony was transferred to the Brookwood Military Cemetery in the UK from December 1941, until Polish forces liberated the town of Ypres on the 6th September 1944. After the daily ceremony returned to Ypres, the Brookwood Last Post Association continue the ceremony at Brookwood on the first Sunday of each month.

On Sunday 14 November we will be leading the Remembrance Parade in Claygate – a central moment in our band calendar. And then as we approach Christmas, we will be supporting a number of events – including Carols on the Green for the village (Sunday 5 December); the Group's end of year Carols Round the Campfire celebration; and then our annual Carols Round the Village where we raise funds for the Group.



## Looking ahead to 2022...

2022 is also a big and exciting year for the band. In March we have our annual concert, and we then have a full schedule of events during the spring and summer, including supporting the closing ceremony of Surrey Scouts 'Scoutabout' event in July. But the highlight of the year will be our trip to Disneyland Paris in October, when we will once again be leading the Disney Parade. We've undertaken this trip on two previous occasions, in 2011 and 2015. Both trips were huge successes and enjoyed by everyone. I'm sure our 2022 trip will be just as good.







# Help needed to erect Christmas trees for Christmas Lights - 13th Nov



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

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

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

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## Help raise funds for the Group - Delivery of Christmas trees

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

To raise funds the Group sells Christmas trees, which we deliver throughout Claygate and Esher. To help with this we need extra vans/ bodies to help with the delivery. The dates when help is required are: **4th, 11th & 18th December**.

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

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



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## Help needed to take down Christmas trees - 8th Jan

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

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

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





# Explorer Scout Summer Expedition 2021

# EXPLORERS

Owing to government and Scout Association restrictions on travel, the 1st Claygate Selachii Explorer Scouts undertook their annual expedition closer to home this year. The Unit spent 4 days and 3 nights in the Surrey Hills AONB.

Twenty-three Explorers and leaders set off on the 17th of July from Newlands Corner carrying most of the equipment that they would use over the expedition. With heavy rucksacks in sometimes challenging heat, Explorers trekked 16km (10 miles) over 6 hours including a lunch stop, ascending 320 metres on steep trails. Along the way, the expedition enjoyed a visit to St Martha-on-the-Hill church, a listed Grade II Historic building and waypoint on The Pilgrims' Way, which is perched on the top of St Martha's Hill and accessible only on foot. The group was briefly joined by a lone Italian modern-day pilgrim following the historical route to the shrine of Thomas Becket at Canterbury Cathedral.

By late afternoon the unit had arrived at the Dorking District Scouts' Campsite on Ranmore Common above Westcott in Surrey. After making camp there, the Explorers worked together to prepare a pasta dinner to refuel after what was a demanding day's hike.

The second day of the expedition was taken at a more relaxed pace. After practicing outdoor and woodcraft skills, a good part of the day was spent preparing a chicken and also curry dinner with individually homemade naan breads. The Indian inspired meal prepared over a campfire was a universal hit.

The third day of the expedition saw a return to the trail. Explorers descended into the valley of Wotton Common before ascending the other side to the peak of Leith Hill. There was plenty of time to enjoy the incredible vista from that high point in the Surrey Hills. Although the return trip covered over 20.5kms (13 miles) of trails and 530 metres of climbing, the route took the unit by the The Abinger Hatch coaching inn, where everyone appreciated a hearty afternoon tea before heading back to the campsite on Ranmore. That evening's sky was clear, and the stars and moon were strikingly beautiful offering an opportunity to work on astronomy.

Camp was struck early the following morning. Explorers moved their equipment and personal kit off Ranmore Common heading east by north 5km to The Stepping Stones which cross The River Mole at the foot of Box Hill. There the Explorers were met by the Group's kayak and canoe trailer. The expedition formed into a flotilla which left the Stepping Stones to paddle downstream to the footbridge in Cobham near Little Roundabout. That leg of the expedition was exceptionally challenging, as many stretches of the Mole were almost unnavigable owing to fallen trees and other obstacles. The river journey took more than 7 hours to complete, and presented even the strongest Explorers with a substantial physical challenge, but also with a satisfying feeling of accomplishment as the expedition drew to a close.





# 3rd Claygate Beer Festival 2021



We took advantage of a window of opportunity before the Autumn Term section meetings started to hold our 3rd Beer Festival at the Scout Centre on 4th and 5th September. We were a little concerned whether there would be an appetite for a big village event so soon after the lockdown ended, but we were not to be disappointed – with almost 1,000 adults and over 100 children (for the family afternoon) joining in, the event was sold out completely in advance. The demand was definitely pent up!

We were fortunate with the weather which allowed the outside area to be fully used – although courtesy of the COVID we do now have more gazebos to put up should the forecast be inclement!

Nearly 40 different beers and ciders were sold, mostly from local brewers – 2,500 pints in total. In addition the Gin Bar, introduced in 2019, was more popular than ever. Burgers and hot dogs provided by the Game Larder were in strong demand, and the kitchen team were kept busy with continuous production of chips! And on Saturday night the Front Covers kept us entertained with great music until late into the evening.

The Beer Festival is only possible thanks to the hard work and effort of many parents and leaders and the support of our local community. Our big thanks go out to everyone who contributed for making it into such a success.





# Carols Around the Campfire

On a Friday in December - look out for the date soon

6:45pm for a 7:00pm start  
The Scout Centre, Claygate



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

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

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

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

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

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



Christmas Post  
6th - 20th Dec

30p per card



We work in partnership with the 1st Hinchley Wood Scouts to deliver your cards within the Claygate Parish borders. Pop your cards (in fully addressed envelopes) and 30p per card into one of the conveniently located **yellow Scout post boxes** and they will be collected regularly for prompt delivery.

*Profits from the Christmas Post are shared between 1st Claygate Scout Group and our selected charity, which the Scout Troop will be selecting shortly.*





# Dates for the Diary



We are really happy to see the calendar filling up with the normal events and plans for the rest of this term and 2022 are really starting to take shape. The indicative calendar is set out below. This will enable you to detach it and pin it to you notice board at home. As ever some dates change so the latest calendar is available on the Group website, so always check.

MONTH & DATE	EVENT	Beaver Scouts	Cub Scouts	Scouts	Explorer Scouts	Network Scouts	SASU	Band	Group Support
<b>November</b>									
02nd	SCOPE (2/5) - Explorer Shooting comp tbc				EXPLORERS				
03rd	Scout Cooking Competition			[SCOUTS]					
06th	Group Fireworks – Scout Centre - Provisional <b>Scout Centre</b>	🔥	🐾	[SCOUTS]	EXPLORERS	network+	🏠		
07th	Band at Brookwood Last Post Ceremony							🎺	
09th	YL Workshop 1 Games 19:30 - 21:30 <b>Zoom</b>				EXPLORERS	network+	🏠		
12th-14th	Devon Canoe Trip								
14th	Remembrance Parade	🔥	🐾	[SCOUTS]	EXPLORERS	network+		🎺	
17th	YL Workshop 3 Planning and Delivering the Programme 19:30 - 22:00 <b>Zoom</b>				EXPLORERS	network+	🏠		
17th	Group Executive meeting						🏠		
20th-21st	Triangle Night Hike 18:00 - 10:00 <b>Kent</b>				EXPLORERS				
20th	District Seminar at Claygate						🏠		
29th	SCOPE (3/5) - Explorer Indoor Games Comp <b>Hinchley Wood</b>				EXPLORERS				
<b>December</b>									
02nd	YL Workshop 2 Planning and Running Activities 19:30 - 22:00 <b>Zoom</b>				EXPLORERS	network+	🏠		
05th	Carols on the Green	🔥	🐾	[SCOUTS]	EXPLORERS	network+	🏠	🎺	
12th	Cubs to Panto (Provisional)		🐾						
TBA	Carols Round the Camp Fire (Provisional)	🔥	🐾	[SCOUTS]	EXPLORERS	network+	🏠	🎺	
TBA	Carolling Round the Village (Provisional)	🔥	🐾	[SCOUTS]	EXPLORERS	network+	🏠	🎺	

(P) Provisional Date; (TBA) To Be Advised. (UNDERLINED) = more location information available.

**2022 Dates are now available on the website**

## Jumble Sale 2022



Due to the Covid restrictions we have not been able to hold our traditional Jumble Sales - the last one was in January 2019. We have assessed the options for restarting these fundraisers as they usually contribute around £6,000 per annum to our funds. To help mitigate any risks we propose the following; create a one way system, selling suitable items outside, providing masks and gloves and sanitiser to our volunteers.

The proposed date is Saturday 29th January 2022. In order to allow the team to plan the event I will be writing to parents shortly to seek volunteers for the day earlier than normal.

Our neighbouring Group in Hinchley Wood managed to run a successful Jumble Sale recently, so I am sure we can mirror their effort.

