



October 2022

GSL's Update



As we move towards the end of 2022, it has been a year when we were able to re-set the programme post Covid, and this has meant that there have been some really great activities throughout the year. It was wonderful to see so many young people receiving the Top Award for their section at the recent going up ceremony. Particular highlights:

More than 50 highly excited Beavers from 1st Claygate joined an outing to go wild at "Beavers' Bazzaz". The day started at 8.30am at the Scout Centre from where the Beavers travelled in style by double decker bus. How cool is that!

The field at Merrist Wood looked extremely colourful and was filled with a vast array of activities, including many inflatables spread across the field, a giant bouncy slide, two adventure climbing frames, water guns, laser tags, electric go-karts, archery zones, and many more.

Cubs attended the Esher District Cub Camp at the Polyapes site near Cobham, where cubs from all the packs in Esher District camp got together for a weekend. The theme of the camp was the Commonwealth Games, and each group picked a country to theme their activities around. The cubs were also issued with a passport on which they could collect stamps as they toured the site.

Claygate cubs ran the Canada base, with back-woods cooking (dough twists and maple syrup), Frisbee golf, and a maple leaf themed craft activity. Bases run by other groups involved a kiwi egg and spoon race and a triathlon involving welly throwing!

The scouts attended Scoutabout, with scouts from all across Surrey. Days were filled with activities including the ever popular cave maze, water activities, parascending, abseiling, and zip wires, as well as lots of smaller activities and crafts. Scouts and guides could try their hand at more than 100 activities across the site.

Then we had summer trips with the explorers off to Cornwall at the end of term, followed by the Troop Camp to the Yorkshire Dales. I am sure all our members will have happy memories of the many activities and meetings they attended throughout the summer.

We are also very proud of three of our older members who have received awards at Windsor Castle and Buckingham Palace. Well done Eloise, who collected her Queen's Scout Award at Windsor, and to Eloise, James and Alex, who received their gold Duke of Edinburgh awards at Buckingham Palace. Eloise was also part of the contingent of Scouts who assisted with marshalling the queue in London for the Queen's lying in state.

I expect by the time the newsletter is issued we will have held our Group fireworks event, the Band will have taken part of in the Lord Mayor's Show and the whole Group will have joined with our community in Claygate for Remembrance at the war memorial.

The Sections will then start their meetings that bring us up to Christmas, and there are some Group events you can support; Claygate lights 26th November, erecting trees in the village for Christmas, the delivery of Christmas trees that have been ordered through the Group, the band will also join you to an event on 9th December @Carols Round the Campfire!

The calendar for 2023 is now on the Group website but wanted to highlight some particular events:

- Group Camp 19 – 21 May 2023 (Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers)
- Escapade District Camp 23 – 25 June 2023 (Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers)
- Scram 17th June 2023 (County Event for Cubs)

Never a dull moment!!

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank all of the adult volunteers who make 1st Claygate Scout Group truly great. The leaders give generously of their time and without their commitment and dedication and I am sure all of you echo my thanks.

Gilwell 2022 **cubs**

It's been a while since the Cubs had a pack holiday. For some it was the first coach trip they had been on.

Gilwell park is commonly known as the home of Scouting. It's a Scouting Activity centre based in Epping Forest and has been owned by Scouts UK for over 100 years. Around the campsite are lots of international scouting memorabilia and historical items to find alongside several faith buildings.

The international feel to the site is also supported by the instructors/support staff who are former Scouts from across the world and are more than happy to share stories and experiences.

There was however a slight different atmosphere when I arrived early to check in. Gilwell staff were slowly getting back to a normal routine having previously just hosted large numbers of Network members at short notice.

During the weekend prior to our arrival, Gilwell put into place Operation Feather. This entailed inviting, hosting, feeding Network members from across the UK. This was so they could, in shifts, be transported into central London to support members of the public in the lying in state queue over the busy weekend.

But what about our pack holiday....

Well we were blessed with a lovely mild weekend which allowed the Cubs to explore the site and take part in the organised activities. A small hiccup with a local road closure meant the coach was slightly delayed but this didn't dampen the Cubs excitement!

Once the Cubs were off the coach they grabbed a bag and walked to our building for the weekend. And yes there were several bags bigger than the Cubs carrying them!

After drinks and room allocation it was time for bed! Our building had Cubs in rooms of 8 (4 bunk beds).





Saturday evening saw Hatti leading the Cubs in several campfire songs and then it was off to bed.

Sunday saw Cubs completing another adventures activity either grass sledging, bouldering, archery or fencing followed by outdoor games and lunch.

Then it wasn't long before they all got back in the coach for the return trip to Claygate.

Thank you to all the parents/leader who gave up there time to help out for the weekend, it wouldn't happen with out you.

Catherine, Akela Lion pack



Troop Camp

SCOUTS 

Sat July 30 – Sat 6th August - Yorkshire

For this years' summer camp, we had the pleasure of returning to a quiet hillside farm field in the picturesque Yorkshire Dales. 26 scouts and 8 leaders set forth on the 26th of July, leaving behind a heatwave in the Southeast for greener pastures. Our destination Appletreewick pronounced App'twick as I am reliably informed (rather than all three words) is a lovely little village near the River Wharfe, an easy 5 hour journey from Claygate made entertaining by scout compiled playlists.

Despite not having had the usual amount scouting time under canvass due to lockdown etc a pretty impressive camp of 5 patrols, leaders mess, general stores and medical wing was produced with enthusiasm and vigour, even latrines were dug plus a competition was held to add depth to the ablutions pit.

One of our first planned activities raft building although reasonably successful from a construction perspective with some interesting designs was slightly scuppered by a lack of water level in the river initially. Fortuitously, over the following days the heavens cooperated and soon enough we had an impressive flow of rapids for various water-based activities including kayaking, bobbing down the rapids on barrels and a swim on the final day of camp which definitely tested one's tolerance for the cold.

The daily structure of the camp is for the scouts to cook their own breakfast, rotate around morning and afternoon activities such as, Archery, Mountain biking, Building Camp gadgets, Games, Hike preparation etc and then build a fire for cooking an evening meal. Each evening the patrols host a different leader for dinner – points are awarded throughout the day with view to winning the Top Patrol Prize at the end of camp. Our winning Patrol Lydia, Ruby, Jess, Charlie and Ciara were a worthy team narrowly edging out their nearest competition, led by Lydia's brother Jamie – sibling rivalry at its best. All the Patrols however, were impressive in their efforts and cooperation.

Each evening after inspection the scouts thrilled the leaders by arranging their own post dinner entertainment which included things as diverse as a nail painting salon, barrel jumping competitions, yoga and singing.

In addition to the incredible location we enjoyed for camp itself, we ventured further into the local area for other activities. Ilkley Pool and Lido delighted us with a 1930s lovely art deco vibe lovely views of the surrounding moors and a very welcome hot shower after a refreshing dip in the pool. A trip to Skipton, gave the scouts some free time to explore the market town and support the stall holders resulting in some interesting souvenir hats and many obligatory bags of sweets.

Fortunately after being tested in many varied weather conditions mainly the exact opposite of that being experienced in the south we were blessed with some wonderful weather for our day hike along the River Wharfe where we took in the majesty of the ruins of the 12th-century



Augustinian monastery now known as Bolton Priory, discovered stunning Ancient woodland and a section of water reputed to be the most deadly body of water in the world – “The Strid”

All in all, it was an epic week, and we very much look to next time.



Scoutabout 2022



At one point this felt like the camp that would never happen. With planning starting in late 2019 for an original date of June 2020, we were finally loading up the minibuses for our journey to the South of England Showground in Ardingly on 1st July 2022.

Usually held every three years, Scoutabout brings together over 6000 Scouts, Guides and leaders from across Surrey. Each group organises an activity with the result being a huge fairground full of fun activities ranging from crafts and skill games to adrenaline filled sports such as abseiling, caving and water sports. There was even a chance to go paragliding, but everyone agreed that Esher District's space hopper assault course was by far the best, with our very own Lydia A holding the top spot on the fastest time leader board until losing out on the golden space hopper in the final hour of the weekend. Great effort Lydia!

Claygate was well represented with 22 Scouts attending the weekend and making the most of the fabulous weather. The "get dunked in a huge barrel of water" activity was unusually popular and provided a welcome opportunity to cool down towards the end of the day. Evening saw the activities close for the day and the action moved into the main arena with a disco in operation until bedtime.

Special mention goes to Leo B who celebrated his birthday on the Friday with a large cake and a memorably tuneless rendition of "Happy birthday to you". Not a bad birthday party taking part in 100+ activities with thousands of friends.

The weekend finished with everyone coming together for the closing ceremony and our fabulous 1st Claygate Scout & Guide Band leading the parade into the stadium and then providing us with music throughout, including a sing-along version of "Sweet Caroline" to get the crowd going.

As a final bonus we heard that the next Scoutabout will be brought forward a year to 2024 ... we'd better start our planning now.



Night Hike



Congratulations and well done to all that took part in the Troop District Night Hike on the 1st to the 2nd of October. It was a fairly warm night, the cloud cover providing a smattering of gentle rain at times and unfortunately not a lot of moon light to aid our fearless navigators.

The good news is that all our adventurous scouts made it back to 1st Claygate headquarters fully intact and ready for a good sleep at the scout centre with our competition teams finishing 9th and 11th respectively.

Out of our two training teams, the first finished in a dignified overall position of 8th while the second team reportedly experienced the rare phenomenon of the Surrey triangle, the overcoming of which resulted in 22nd place finish.

During this event 1st Claygate proudly ran a cooking checkpoint, described by many of the scouts as “the best activity” of the night! The participants, totalling over a hundred, were challenged in their teams, to cook themselves a bacon sandwich using only a burner, some tin foil, a coat hanger and a small dollop of creative thinking. A feat that once completed was very welcome by all the intrepid explorers involved.

If your young person would like to experience this great activity for themselves please watch out for sign up information in early September 2023.



Scout's Going Up Ceremony



It was a wonderful sunny afternoon for our ceremony and for many young people and parents it was their first experience of this short but important event.

The ceremony is made up of 3 parts:

Scout's Own

This is a short informal ceremony made up of readings and reflections based on the values of scouting.

Hugh (Group Scout Leader) spoke on the theme of helping others and encouraged us all to GO MAD – Go Out, Make A Difference. We then all listened to a prayer in remembrance of the Queen.

Presentation of Awards

A number of Beavers, Cubs and Scouts were then presented with a Chief Scout's award. Bronze for Beavers, Silver for Cubs and Gold for Scouts.

These are the highest awards that are achievable within each section and require 2 years of hard work, dedication and of course plenty of fun along the way! Huge congratulations to those who received an award.

Going up Ceremony

We all gathered in the grounds around a large wooden structure built by the Scouts. This was a fine example of pioneering, the scouting skill that involves tying pieces of wood together with rope to make a firm structure.

The Beavers bid goodbye to their leaders with a left handed handshake (of course!) and climbed over the structure. Their new Cub leaders were there on the other side to welcome them.

This process was then repeated for the Cubs moving to scouts but with a greater challenge. The Cubs walked across the structure as if on a tight rope!

Scouts moving to Explorers had another challenge best described by the photos...

The ceremony ended with afternoon tea and cakes made by Debbie (Assistant Group Scout Leader/Owl). A lovely opportunity to chat with the young people, parents and leaders.

Emma Smith (Nala, Sycamore Colony)





Queen's Scout Award



The Queen's Scout Award is the top achievement for Explorer Scouts and Scout Network members and comprises of a variety of activities to complete, including an International, Community and Values section, the completion of Gold DofE and undertaking a certain number of nights away.

I finally completed the award at the end of last year. I had a lot of fun whilst doing the award and learnt lots of valuable lessons and skills along the way. I would like to thank everyone at 1st Claygate for the support and opportunities I have been given that have enabled me to achieve this award and would like to encourage current Explorer and Network members to have a go at the award too - you will probably be surprised by the number of things you have completed already which can contribute to sections within the award!

You can find out further details about the Queen's Scout Award at <https://www.scouts.org.uk/top-awards/queens-scout-award/>.

Elloise Budd



Operation Feather



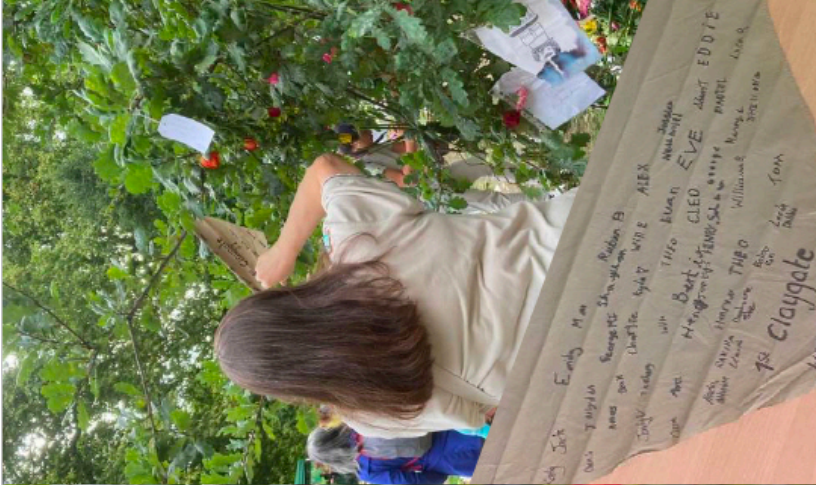
After the sad passing of The Queen, I had the honour and privilege of being selected to participate in Operation Feather.

Operation Feather involved around 160 Scouts aged 18-25 giving their time to support the thousands of people paying their respects to HM The Queen in London. All the Scouts taking part were housed at Gilwell Park, from where we were coached into London for our shifts. I was on the night shifts located in Victoria Tower Gardens and the main duties involved making sure people in the queue were kept warm and hydrated by handing out water bottles and blankets and assisting anyone with any medical needs by accompanying them to the first aid tent.

Security was also a high priority, and we were given training in monitoring for suspicious unsupervised items/bags. A real positive of the event was the redistribution of non-perishable and unopened packages of food that were confiscated at security before the members of the public were allowed into Westminster. It was an idea started by the Scouts after noticing how much food was being thrown away and wasted at security and so after getting in contact and teaming up with the charity The Felix Project, the rescued food was distributed locally to charities supporting the homeless in London and sent as supplies to Ukraine.

For over the 70 years of The Queens' reign, Scouts have promised to do their duty to The Queen and to help others. By taking part in Operation feather this allowed us to deliver on our Promise to The Queen and support the nation at this significant moment.





Queen Elizabeth II

During our pack meeting, last Tuesday
13th September, Cubs all signed a
Claygate Scarf.

I took this up to Green Park, Memorial
Garden and hung it in a tree as a
lasting tribute, to our Patron, the Queen
Akela, Lion Pack

Disney Musical Magic

The band have just returned from a fantastic three day trip to Disneyland Paris, during which the band led the Disney Parade in front of thousands of people.

Three years in the planning...

The trip was originally scheduled for autumn 2020 as part of the band's 20th anniversary celebrations, but had to be delayed due to COVID. COVID then intervened again in 2021! As a result of the delay, we had to resubmit an audition video to the Disney team earlier this year to secure permission to perform in their parade, which the band passed with flying colours.

A trip to remember.....

On Thursday 27 October, at 6:30am (!) the band gathered in Claygate, boarding our coach to Paris. The band then spent Friday and Saturday in the Disney Parks, enjoying the rides and soaking up the amazing atmosphere.

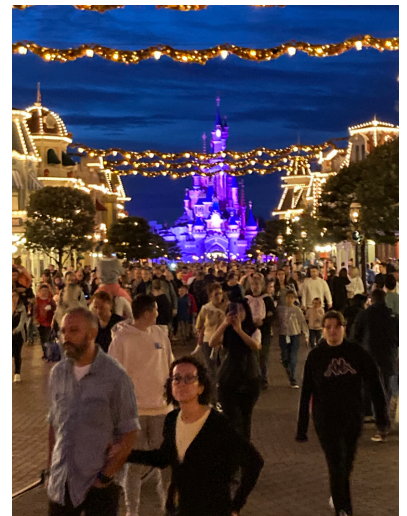
The highlight of the trip was, of course, performing in the main Disney Parade. Disneyland Paris was full to capacity and the parade route, which winds its way through the Disneyland park, was packed four or five people deep. In preparing for the parade, the band had to go "back-stage", into the area of the park where customers do not get to go. Whilst waiting backstage for the parade to begin, Captain Hook came along (he seemed desperate to have a go at conducting the band!), as did Chip 'n Dale who gave us a huge wave and a thumbs up for encouragement.

Then the parade began. Over the loud speakers, across the Disney Park, we heard ...

"Disney is proud to welcome the 1st Claygate Scout and Guide Band from the United Kingdom".

The main gates open and we see the huge crowds lining the route....and our march begins. The crowd was brilliant, and the atmosphere was truly electric – cheers, clapping and shouts of encouragement. As we approached Main Street, we played the theme tune from "Rocky" which sounded superb, with the buildings along main street providing great acoustics.

The band's performance on the day was first class. We looked great as everyone's uniform was in tip-top condition and the band's marching was excellent.....and we sounded great too. Everyone rose to the occasion and I hope every single member of the band will feel proud of their contribution to a brilliant performance.





Fun in the parks too.....

Of course, as well as ensuring a superb performance through the parade, there was lots of fun and enjoyment to be had too. Band members took full opportunity of all the rides (most were too scary for me!) and the Disney events across both of the Disneyland Paris parks.

What did the band say.....

Here are a few of their comments, but they sum up the experiences of everyone:

Leo - "I loved Disneyland, the rides, experience marching and having fun."

Anabel - "We all had such an amazing time both looking around the park, going on the rides and having the brilliant opportunity to perform in the parade."

Zoe - "Marching through Disney felt like a dream, everyone did so well."

Cleo - "A once in a lifetime opportunity." **Chris** - "Proud to be part of a great team that gave the crowd a very impressive performance."

Zoe - "I loved hanging out with my friends." And what did the Disney organiser say about the band ... "You were phenomenal."

Thank you to everyone for making this such a great and memorable trip

Every single band member played their part in making this a memorable trip. Everyone engaged positively throughout and it was a pleasure to be a part of the group.

Well done to everyone – Scouting, and Claygate Scouts, can be proud of you all. And finally, a massive thank you to all the leaders on the trip. The success of the trip was down to your hard work and good humour throughout. **Well done band!**

ROBIN

Proud Band Leader (and, thanks to the generosity of a number of band members, now the proud owner of a pair of sparkly Disney ears...!)



Annual Awards at the AGM



We held our AGM on 17th July which we are required to as a charity, so whilst this is an important it is not the real focus of the meeting. What we really enjoyed was the Band playing in advance and then onto the Group's Annual Awards, where the sections recognise their members by the annual award.

The list of recipients are as follows;

Maple Beaver Colony	Freya Saunders
Oak Beaver Colony	Adam Kamil Thomas Springett
Willow Beaver Colony	Bertie Edwards
Sycamore Beaver Colony	Luca Thurston
Lion Cub Pack	Jack Dickinson
Lynx Cub Pack	Luca Saunders Charlotte Atherton
Panther Cub Pack	Emily Burton
Scout Troop	Aahna Wijeratne
Explorer Scout Unit	Ben Dawes Louie Elliott
Nightingale Award	Evie Dawes

All of them received rousing applause as they came up to be presented with their award.

My congratulations to them all, please look after the awards while they are in your custody they contain a great history of previous award recipients



Beer Festival



The fourth beer festival was held on 2nd and 3rd September and once again was a great success. Over 40 beers and ciders were available, plus we again ran a Gin Bar and ran a catering operation throughout.

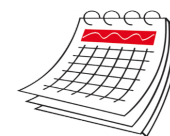
All three sessions sold out in advance– the evening sessions for adults only and the Saturday afternoon session for families, with the bouncy slide being a bit hit with the children. Retrosonic played out the Festival on the Saturday night with a great set – many thanks to Mike and his band.

It's hard to believe that we only held our first festival with just a dozen beers only 5 years ago. This has now become one of the biggest fundraisers for the scouts, and we are indebted to the many parents who volunteer for the setting up in the days before the event, through to serving the beer, gin, wine and food, collecting payments and keeping the place tidy, plus those who help put everything away and tidy up on the Sunday. Your help is much appreciated.

Put next year in your diary now! - 1st and 2nd September 2023.



Future Events and Diary



MONTH & DATE	EVENT	Beaver Scouts	Cub Scouts	Scouts	Explorer Scouts	Network Scouts	SASU	Band	Group Support
November									
01st	District Shooting Competition (Explorer)				EXPLORERS				
05th	Group Fireworks sc			[SCOUTS]	EXPLORERS	network+			
12th	Lord Mayors Show (Provisional)								
13th	Remembrance Parade			[SCOUTS]	EXPLORERS	network+			
13th	District Cub Badge Afternoon								
TBA	Remembrance Parade			[SCOUTS]	EXPLORERS	network+			
16th	Group Executive meeting Scout Centre								
16th	Group Executive Meeting								
17th	District Scout Cooking Competition			[SCOUTS]					
26th	Claygate Lights Claygate			[SCOUTS]	EXPLORERS	network+			
26th	District Scout Shooting			[SCOUTS]					
28th	District Explorer Games Night				EXPLORERS				
December									
TBA	Carolling Round the Village (Provisional) Claygate			[SCOUTS]	EXPLORERS	network+			
04th	Carols on the Green			[SCOUTS]	EXPLORERS	network+			
09th	Carols Round the Camp Fire Scout Centre			[SCOUTS]	EXPLORERS	network+			
January									
07th	Take down Christmas Trees (Provisional)								X
TBA	Xmas Tree Recycling Scout Centre			[SCOUTS]	EXPLORERS	network+			
20th-22nd	Winter Activity Weekend Peak District				EXPLORERS	network+			
25th	Young Leader Module A Training				EXPLORERS	network+			
28th	Jumble Sale								X
February									
04th-05th	Scout Frost Camp Scout Centre			[SCOUTS]					
04th	District Beaver Party								
05th	District Cub Quiz Claygate (pm) Scout Centre								
05th	District Scouting Skills & First Aid Comp (am)			[SCOUTS]					
05th	Scouts Own/Going Up Ceremony Scout Centre			[SCOUTS]	EXPLORERS	network+			
12th	County Cub Quiz Final								
25th	Group Grounds Clearance and woodland path Scout Centre			[SCOUTS]	EXPLORERS	network+			X
25th-26th	Troop Frost Camp			[SCOUTS]					
26th	County Cub Quiz Final								
27th	Explorer Incident Hike				EXPLORERS				